WORLD / A25

Bin Laden is alive, hiding in Afghanistan, says Musharraf

NEWS / A2

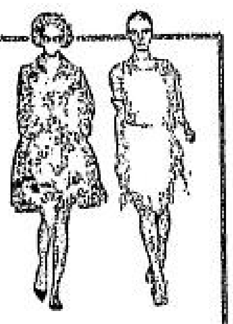
Senators see victory in Supreme Court

SPORTS / A27

Unlikely pool trio for Asian Games in Doha

LIFESTYLE / E1

Fashion moving away from youth obsession?



Study links finger length to girl's sporting potential

TALAGA? NASA DALIRI ANG BILIS NG PAA?

LONDON—THE LENGTH OF A girl's ring finger could be an indicator of her future sporting potential, according to researchers at King's College London.

In the largest study of its kind, hand measurements of

STUDY/ A20

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Friday, September 29, 2006 ★★ 16 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 293 P18 website: www.inq7.net

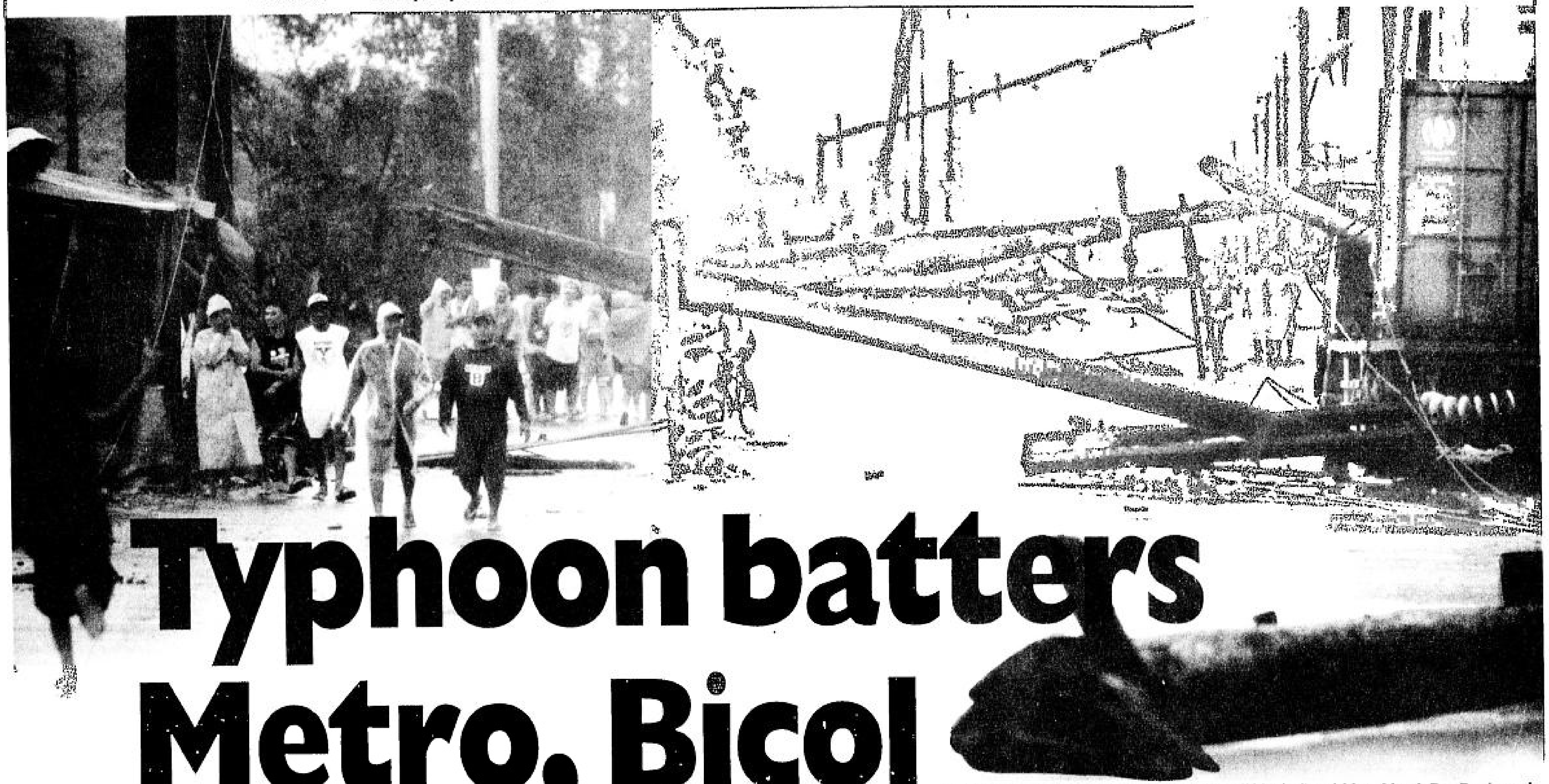
South Pacific islanders want RP workers out

NOUMEA, NEW CALEDONIA—ABOUT 500 PEOPLE marched through the New Caledonian capital Noumea yesterday to protest high prices in the French territory and demand the expulsion of expatriate workers from the Philippines.

Hundreds of protesters earlier blockaded the headquarters of Goro Nickel, a subsidiary of the Canadian mining group Inco, after a call for

SOUTH PACIFIC/ A4

Typhoon batters Metro, Bicol



A RIOT of electric posts felled by "Milenyo" blocks Road 10 on North Bay Boulevard in Navotas City. Milenyo brought strong winds moving at 130 kilometers per hour, mowing down power lines and plunging the whole of Luzon in a blackout. EDWIN BACASMAS

AT A GLANCE

- Classes in all levels still suspended today in Metro
- All gov't offices still closed today in Metro
- At least 18 people dead
- Luzon-wide blackout
- Thousands of trees felled
- Billboards and lampposts torn down
- Trucks and cars overturned
- Flooding and landslides
- Thousands stranded
- Flights and sea travel canceled
- LRT and MRT stopped
- Trading suspended

'It's like waking up from a nightmare'

By Inquirer Southern Luzon and Blanche S. Rivera

THE STRONGEST TYPHOON TO DIrectly hit Metro Manila in 11 years yesterday toppled trees and billboards, triggered flash floods and landslides, shuttered offices and the financial markets, and caused a Luzon-wide power outage.

Typhoon "Milenyo" (international name: Xangsane) brought Metro Manila to a near standstill with all flights and sea travel in and out of the metropolis canceled. It also forced officials to suspend two commuter trains.

At least 18 people were reported dead in the cities of Muntinlupa (2), Makati (1) and Legazpi (1), and the provinces of Albay (8), Quezon (3) and Antique (3) in the wake of the typhoon.

Eleven were confirmed dead in Calabarzon, including four children in Taytay, Rizal.

Among the worst hit provinces was Albay, according to disaster officials. It had no water supply, electricity and landline communication link.

Albay and five other provinces in the Bicol region had been without electricity since Wednesday night as high winds toppled power lines.

"It's like waking up from a nightmare," Arnel Capili, Office of Civil Defense chief for the Bicol region, told a radio station. "The first thing is to clear the national highway leading to Manila."

In Camarines Sur, Gov. Luis Ray Villafuerte placed the initial damage to

TYPHOON/ A10

Bolante claim 'a snow job' —Magsaysay

By TJ Burgonio

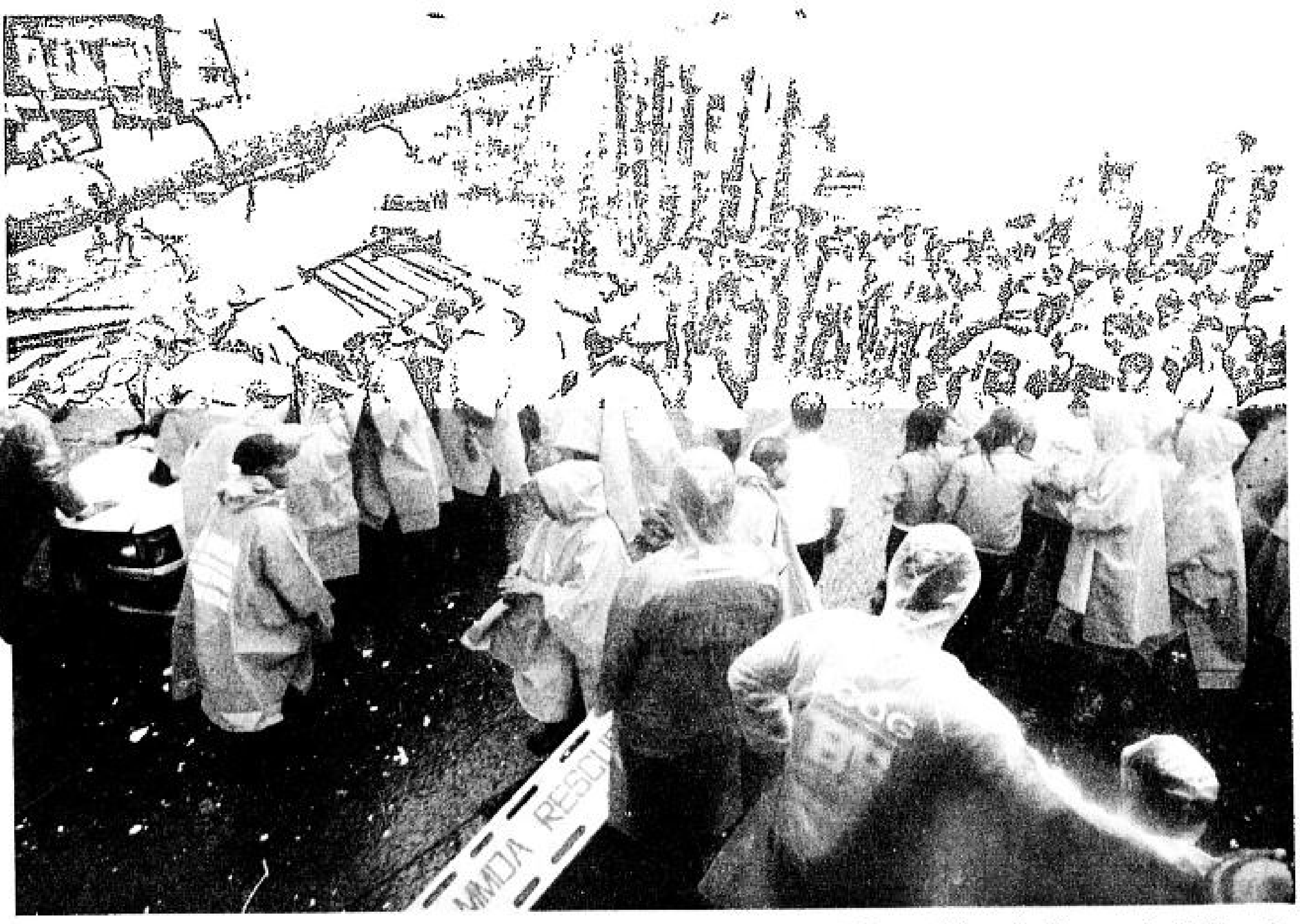
SEN. RAMON MAGSAYSAY JR. YESTERday dismissed Jocelyn "Joc-joc" Bolante's claim he was detained by US authorities to gain the release of four Americans accused in a rape case in the Philippines, calling it a "desperate" attempt to win his immigration case.

"He's doing a snow job," Magsaysay said. He theorized that the former agriculture undersecretary had adopted the tack to muddle his involvement in the alleged use of P728 million in fertilizer funds in the 2004 election of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Magsaysay said Bolante's case in a Wisconsin court was "exclusively separate" from the trial in a Makati City court of four US Marines accused of raping a 23-year-old Filipino woman at the Subic Bay Freeport last year.

"These two cases should not be put together through speculation and faulty strategy. The issue at hand is corruption," he said.

BOLANTE/ A12



RESCUE PERSONNEL of the Metro Manila Development Authority crowd around a Toyota FX crushed by a toppled billboard. The driver died instantly. *(See story in Metro, Page A23.)* REM ZAMORA

NO POWER

Luzon plunged into darkness

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Ronnel W. Domingo

THE ENTIRE LUZON SUFFERED A POWer blackout yesterday as Typhoon "Milenyo" battered Metro Manila and surrounding areas.

"According to Transco (National Transmission Co.), the Luzon system has collapsed. We still don't know what the cause is," Trade Secretary Peter Favila reported to a National Disaster Coordinating Council meeting at Camp Aguinaldo.

Favila could not say when power would be restored. "They are working on it. But it's the entire system," he said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, who was stranded in Clark, Pampanga, because of the foul weather, was surprised by Favila's report.

"So there is a brownout everywhere, including Camp Aguinaldo?" asked Ms Arroyo, who had to resort to a teleconference with top Cabinet officials present at the NDCC meeting.

Favila told Ms Arroyo that Camp Aguinaldo was using generators.

"So brownout all over? So what are you going to do about it?" she continued.

LUZON/ A8

Protests greet order to retake nursing exam

A WAVE OF PROTEST YESTERDAY greeted Malacañang's announcement that President Macapagal-Arroyo had ordered a retake of the controversial nursing board examination in June.

In Dagupan City, topnotcher Gringo San Diego expressed dismay at Ms Arroyo's order but said he was willing to retake the two-day exam that was marred by the purported leak of test questions.

"So be it. There is nothing we can do but abide by whatever the authorities decide," San Diego, a graduate of the University of Pangasinan, told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

But he lamented that those behind the leak had gone unpunished, and said it was "frustrating" that the examinees were "taking the brunt of [the effect of] the misconduct of those responsible."

"It was really a big waste that the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) released the results of the examination. We would not have been confused and frustrated [had it not done so]," he said.

Of the 42,000 students who took the June exam, more than 17,000 passed.

In Western Visayas, 16 of the 19 nursing schools are protesting Ms Arroyo's order, according to Dr. Maria Luisa Parreñas, dean of Riverside College and president of the Association of Deans of the Philippine Colleges of Nursing (Western Visayas chapter).

"We are not amenable to a retake because our students were not involved in the reported cheating and it is unfair for them to have to retake the examination again," Parreñas said.

She said each student would need about P40,000 to review and to pay the retake fees.

All the deans of the nursing schools in Western Visayas are preparing to come up with a collective position on the matter, Parreñas said.

Western Visayas covers the provinces

PROTESTS/ A4

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Western section of Central and Southern Luzon will experience rains and gusty winds. The rest of Luzon and Western Visayas will be cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms, while the rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/09/28/06 SOURCE PAGASA

Second FRONT PAGE

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Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Metro Manila	Stormy	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	**Roxas**	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	**Cebu**	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	**Tacloban**	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Stormy	**Gen. Santos**	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	**Zamboanga**	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	**Cagayan de Oro**	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	**Davao**	Partly Cloudy

Senators see victory in SC

EVEN IF CHIEF JUSTICE ARTEMIO PANGANIBAN AND ASSOCIATE Justice Reynato Puno were to vote to declare the initiative law sufficient to implement Charter change, senators remain hopeful that a majority of the Supreme Court justices would vote to dismiss the petition for a people's initiative.

Panganiban and Puno both voted to uphold the sufficiency of Republic Act 6735, or the Initiative and Referendum Act, to make amendments to the Constitution when the issue was brought to the SC by Sen. Miriam Santiago during the contentious Pirma campaign in 1997.

The justices voted that RA 6735 was insufficient and needed an enabling law. This halted in its tracks the Pirma initiative campaign designed to lift the ban on President Ramos running for a second term.

According to Sen. Joker Arroyo, during the oral arguments on the new initiative petition brought before the SC by the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines and the Sigaw ng Bayan, Panganiban had asked him and the other senators opposed to it what they would do if the high court were to reverse itself on RA 6735.

Hopeful

Arroyo said he was hopeful that Panganiban and Puno would not be able to sway the other justices to their position.

"The proponents must get six others in addition to the Chief Justice and Associate Justice Puno and that would be very difficult to muster," Arroyo said.

Earlier, the senator said that from the "hard questions" that the justices threw to the proponents during the hearing, the high court was disposed to junk the petition.

Santiago, who won the ruling against RA 6735 nine years ago, said a split decision on the sufficiency or insufficiency of the law was not a ground for a reversal.

Sen. Richard Gordon, chair of the Senate committee on constitutional reform, said the proponents were unable to justify the lack of transparency and reliability of the signature collection campaign. He said an added disadvantage to the petition was that it was proposing a revision and not mere amendments to the Charter, contrary to law.

"I'm pretty sure it will be turned down," Gordon said.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said the high court must first address the sufficiency and the revision-not-amendments questions before it tackles the issue of whether the proponents were able to get the required number of signatures in support of the initiative.

Sen. Edgardo Angara said the outcome of the oral arguments on the people's initiative petition was still "too close to call." Just because hard questions were thrown to the proponents did not mean the court was leaning towards those opposed to the initiative, he said.

Angara said Cha-cha advocates should just wait for a new Congress to open after the 2007 elections.

Fresh mandate

"A new Congress with a fresh mandate will have the moral standing to push for change," he said.

In a separate phone interview, Arroyo noted the absence of the initiative proponents in the Senate committee hearing on three proposed bills for an enabling law to RA 6735.

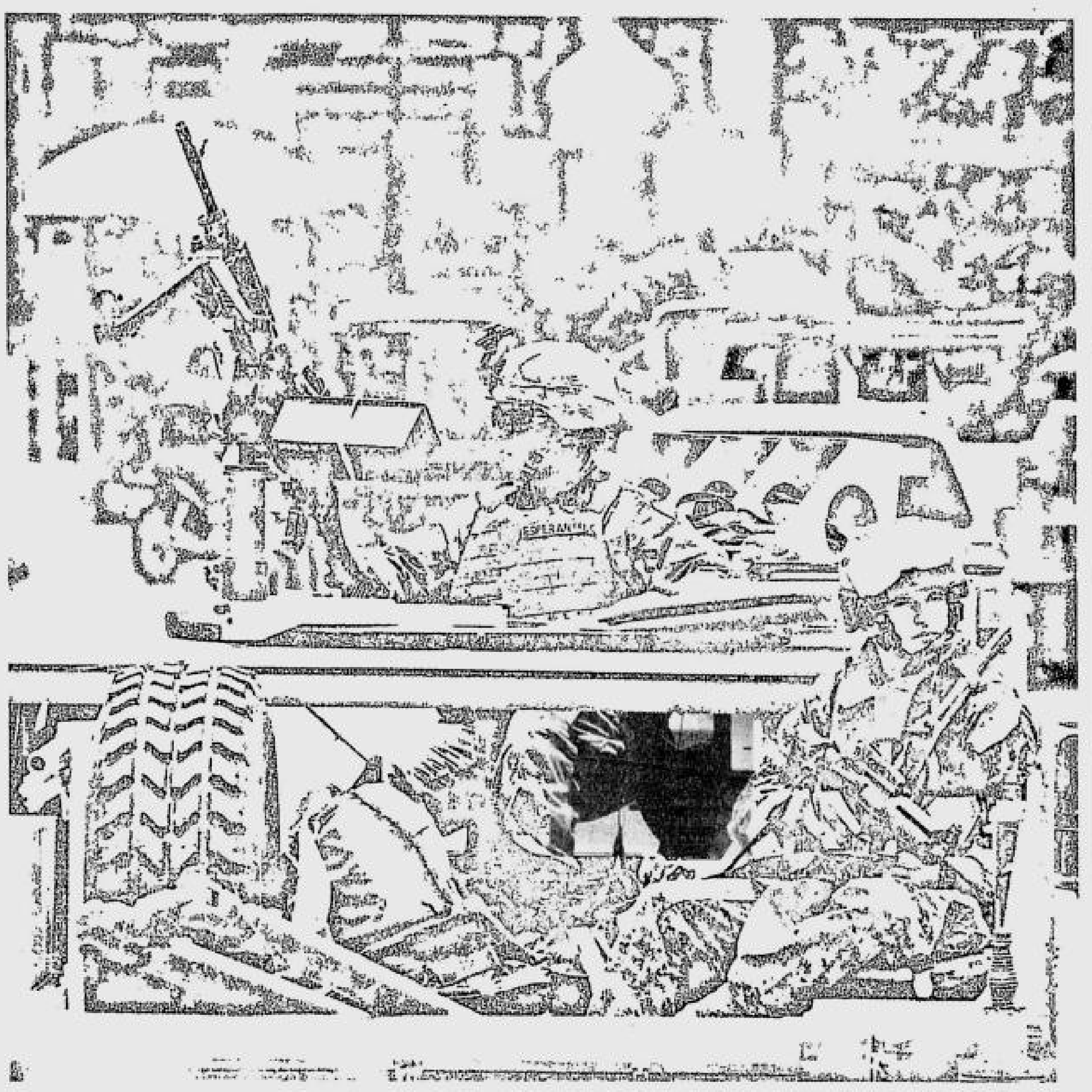
"That clearly shows their indifference," he said of the Sigaw ng Bayan and Ulap officials.

He said the proponents would have done better lobbying Congress to pass the enabling law rather than putting their faith in an invalid law and asking the SC to validate it.

Arroyo said that since the *Santiago vs Comelec* ruling was handed down in 1997, the proponents had every chance of getting Congress to pass an enabling law as they had a "supportive House."

"Why did the proponents not lobby for an enabling law that will fill in the gap of RA 6735 as the Supreme Court has urged? The Supreme Court said that the remedy is through Congress, why is Sigaw and Ulap now asking remedy from the Supreme Court?" he said.

Juliet Labog-Javellana and Armand Nocum



GUARDING KRISTIE

American soldiers man machine guns mounted on military vehicles on the streets of Jolo as they escort US Ambassador Kristie Kenney, who is visiting a joint Philippine-US military medical mission in Indanan town. The ambassador also visited development projects funded by USAID on the island on Monday. REUTERS

RACE AGAINST TIME

Bill on biofuels pressed

By Philip C. Tubeza

BUKIDNON REP. JUAN MIGUEL ZUBIRI has asked the Senate to quickly act on the delayed Biofuels bill, noting that the cost of petroleum imports soared in July in response to rising oil prices in the world market.

Zubiri said he was prodding the senators for a "high-octane performance" so that the bill could be enacted before Congress went on recess on October 14.

"There are 17 days left in the calendar before we take a break. I hope the Senate will make a dash for it," Zubiri said in a statement on Wednesday.

He said the House of Representatives passed the bill unanimously last year but the measure had been languishing in the Senate, "where plenary debate has reportedly been bogged down by differences among senators on how generous the tax break to biofuel-makers will be."

"I hope that our dear colleagues in the other chamber will finally agree on their version so this can be reconciled with ours in the bicameral conference," Zubiri said.

At $69.17 a barrel, the Dubai crude price in July was 31 percent higher than it was a year ago.

As a result, the cost of July oil imports shot up by 89 percent, or to $782 million, from the same month last year, Zubiri said.

He said that "at least a dozen investors" were "waiting in the wings" before they put in "billions of pesos" for factories that would produce biofuel.

Biofuel Alliance

Citing a report of the Biofuel Alliance, Zubiri said six firms were in the "exploratory stage of venturing into ethanol projects."

"In addition, two foreign companies interested in producing cocodiesel are keenly watching the crafting of the regulatory framework before finalizing their plans," Zubiri said.

"If these companies decided to invest in the alternative fuels industry, they would join an early bird, the San Carlos ethanol plant in Negros Occidental," he added.

Zubiri said the bill offered a "raft of perks, including tax privileges, to those interested in making cheap, clear, VAT-free gas out of cane and coconut."

Certified as urgent by President Macapagal-Arroyo, the proposal seeks to replace within four years a tenth of the national gasoline consumption with ethanol.

Zubiri said this would start with the "mandatory blending of gasoline with five percent ethanol" within two years after the law's passage.

At that rate of "fossil fuel displacement," Zubiri said, the country would amass foreign exchange savings the equivalent of more than "P40 billion" a year.

He said he based his estimate on the country's daily consumption of 320,000 barrels of oil, at $65 a barrel, using an exchange rate of P51 to $1.

Zubiri said the country had enough land planted with cane, corn and coconut and other crops to guarantee a steady supply of biofuel.

"We have the means to ride on the alternative fuels boom. We have 2.4 million hectares planted with corn, 3.2 million for coconut, 390,000 for sugarcane, and 330,000 for cassava and camote (sweet potato)," he said.

House worker nabbed for fraud

By Alcuin Papa

POLICE ARRESTED ON WEDNESDAY an employee of the House of Representatives who allegedly defrauded a businessman of P700,000 in exchange for a contract involving the pork barrel of congressmen.

Director Jesus Versoza, chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG), identified the suspect as Michaelito Ravago, a staff member at the Office of the Secretary General at the House.

Being hunted by police are Ravago's cohorts, identified as Edward Colasito and Ronnie and Tess Esguerra.

Versoza said Ravago was arrested based on a complaint filed by Delia Macatlang of Quezon City.

Macatlang said the suspects sweet-talked her into a business transaction involving a contract with the Department of Education (DepEd) to be funded by some lawmakers' Countrywide Development Fund (CDF).

The CDF has been termed a pork barrel because the lawmakers use it to fund projects in their respective districts.

Macatlang said Ravago and the others boasted of their connections in Congress and assured her she would bag the contract.

Before the contract could be signed, however, Macatlang said the suspects began to ask her for money, saying these were advances to be drawn from the "commission" of the suspects.

Macatlang showed police several receipts and bank deposit slips signed by Ravago and the other suspects.

She said she began to worry when the suspects continued to ask for advances without delivering the contract.

On Sept. 25, the suspects called Macatlang and asked for P20,000 more. At this point, she decided to call the police.

Versoza formed a team to entrap the suspects. On Sept. 26, police arrested the suspects in a fast-food restaurant in Quezon City.

Charges of robbery, extortion and graft are being readied against Ravago and the others.

Airport eases up on liquids

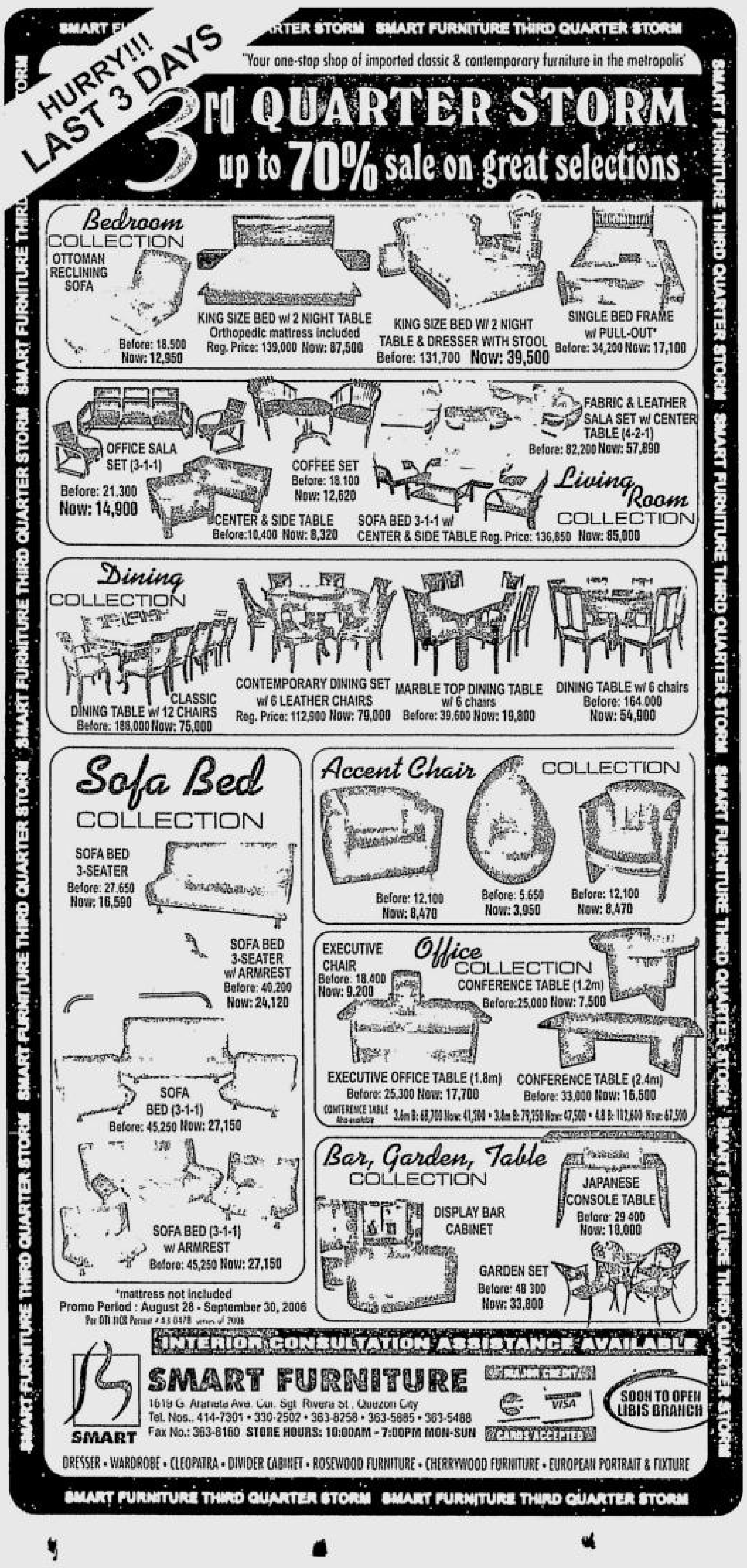
By Nikko Dizon

STARTING TODAY, PASSENGERS bound for the United States will be allowed to bring on board the aircraft liquid and gel items purchased from duty free shops at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

"Duty free shops are already considered a 'sterile area' so items purchased there will be allowed in hand carried bags," said Oscar Paras, senior assistant general manager of the Manila International Airport Authority.

Paras added that prescription medicines will also be allowed onboard.

The MIAA relaxed its prohibitions on liquids, gels and other items of similar consistency after the US Transportation Security Administration (TSA) eased its own liquid ban last Tuesday.



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DINING TABLE w/ 6 chairs Before: 164,000 Now: 54,900
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SOFA BED 3-SEATER w/ ARMREST Before: 40,200 Now: 24,120
SOFA BED (3-1-1) Before: 45,250 Now: 27,150
SOFA BED (3-1-1) w/ ARMREST Before: 45,250 Now: 27,150
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Before: 5,650 Now: 3,950
Before: 12,100 Now: 8,470
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Ibon: New investments don't mean more jobs

By Norman Bordadora

THE RESEARCH group Ibon Foundation said yesterday it is against the Arroyo government's plan to open up the economy even more to foreign investments by removing the nationalist provisions in the 1987 Constitution. This, the church-supported think tank said, "would only mean an aggravation of the dismal economic trends of the last decade."

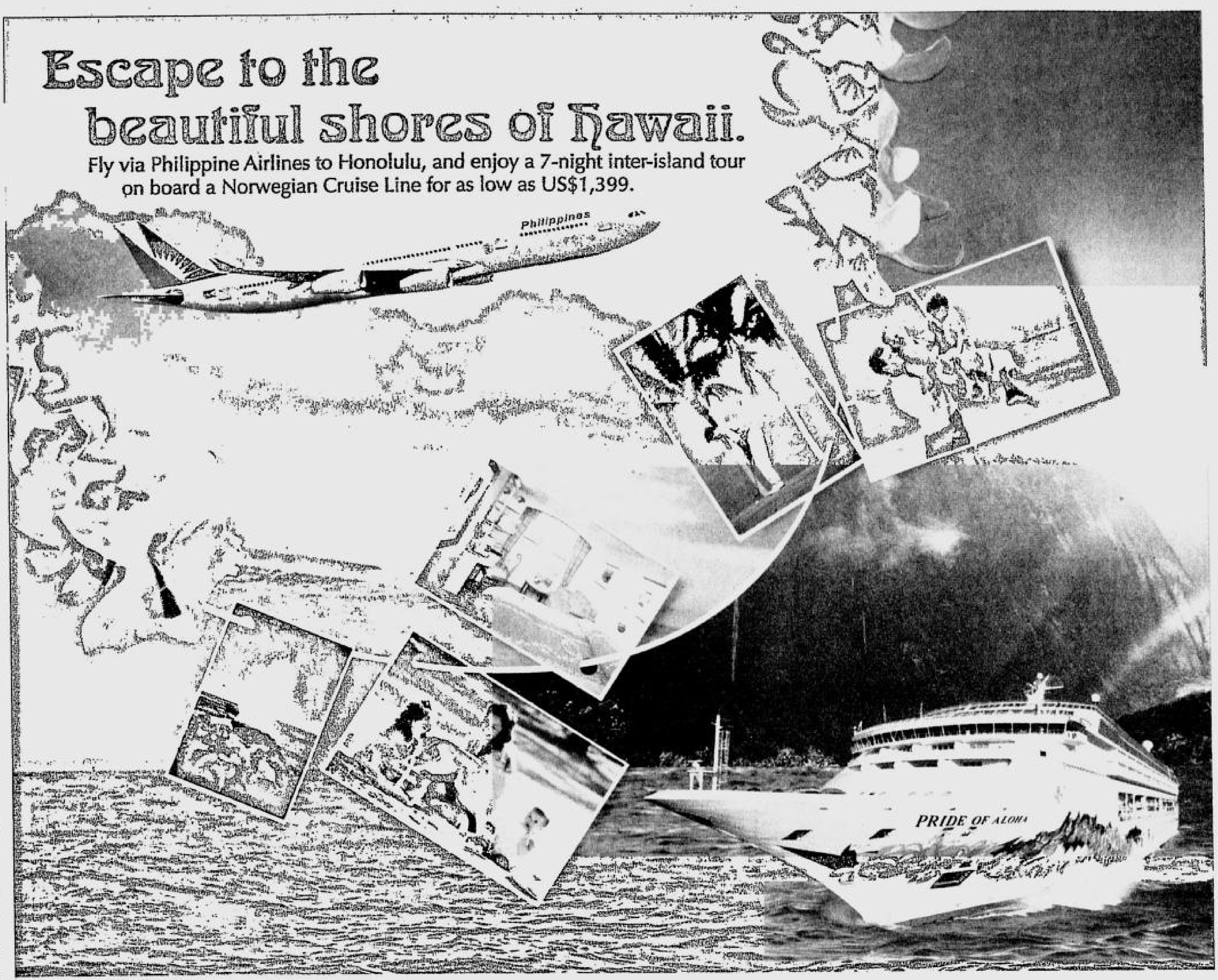
Ibon research head Sonny Africa said the Philippine experience shows that an increase in foreign direct investments "does not necessarily translate into economic gains such as increased employment and poverty reduction."

Africa issued the statement to counter arguments by Charter change proponents that constitutional reforms to further liberalize the economy will result in increased economic development.

"Foreign direct investments have been coming into the country but the supposed gains, such as more jobs, are just not there," Africa said.

The country's net foreign direct investments averaged $1.1 billion a year from 1995 to 2005, or a cumulative stock of likely over $18 billion, said the Ibon statement, citing government sources.

He added that the Ramos and Estrada administrations gave foreign investors extraordinary privileges and fiscal incentives, "thus allowing them to make generous profits without really contributing to the country's social and economic development."



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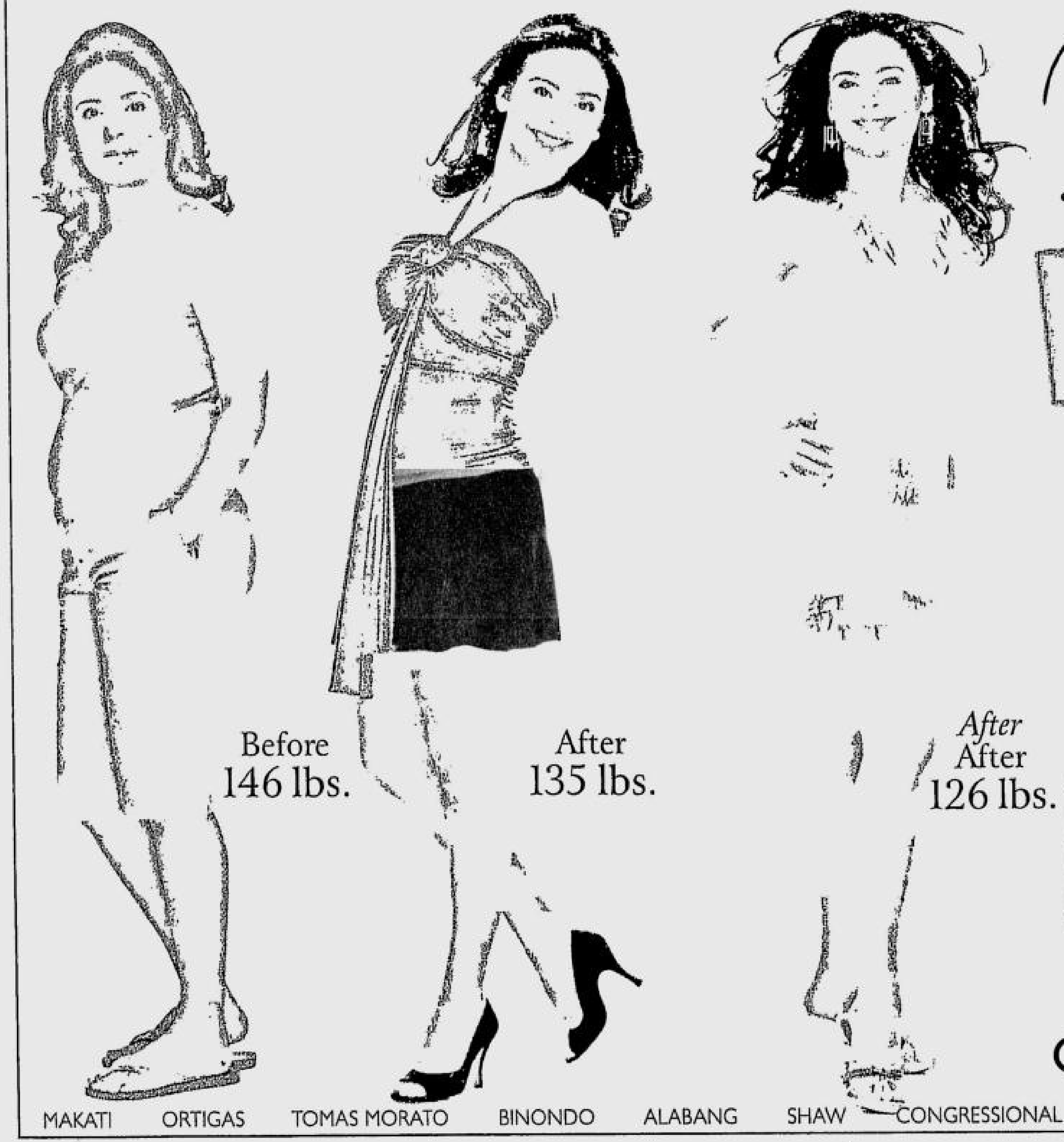

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marie france

South Pacific islanders want RP workers out

From page A1

strike action by the Federation of New Caledonian Workers Union (CSTNC).

"We have to kick out the Filipinos," said CSTNC secretary general Sylvain Nea.

"Every day we'll get more powerful," Nea added.

Anger has grown over the presence of Filipino workers building a Goro Nickel metal-working factory in the south of the French territory.

Critics fear the factory would cause damage to the environment and marine life.

The building site has slowed to "minimal activity," with the return to Noumea of more than a third of the 2,800 people working there.

Most employees of French catering giant Sodexho, which was providing on-site facilities, had joined the strike which started on Monday, a Goro Nickel spokesperson said.

Security forces

The four mining operations of Societe Le Nickel, part of French metals group Eramet, have also been blocked since Tuesday.

Security forces intervened on Wednesday to remove protesters blockading the Total-Mobil fuel depot.

PHILIPPINES
Celebes Sea
PAPUA NEW GUINEA
INDONESIA
New Caledonia
AUSTRALIA
SOUTH PACIFIC OCEAN
NEW ZEALAND
Poindimié
Thio
Noumea
New Caledonia

CSTNC is demanding the removal of the local government as well as the expulsion of Filipino workers, taxes on high earnings and that a greater share of New Caledonia's mineral wealth remain in the territory.

Its demands have been described as "unrealistic" by Didier Leroux, the government's chief economist, who says authorities have put in place a series of measures to fight inflation.

An indigenous Kanak activist group is leading the protests, claiming to have the support of environmental groups and trade unions.

Construction has been plagued by financial problems and disputes with local landowners, worried about the impact on the local environment and marine life.

Planned strike

However, there is division among those who oppose the Goro Nickel plant.

Pierre Chauvat from the USTKE union told Radio Australia the planned strike action was bordering on pointless because the demands of the activists were too many and varied.

"The employment, the expensive way of living and it's all sort of things that have a been put into one piece of paper, so I don't know how the government will be able to handle this cause it looks like it's a real mess," he said. *AFP*

IN THE KNOW

A STRING OF PACIFIC ISLANDS about 1,500 kilometers east of Australia, New Caledonia consists of a mainland of about 16,000 sq km, the Isle of Pines to the south and Loyalty islands to the east. There's also the Belep archipelago in the northwest and several islands and islets, making up a total surface area of about 19,000 sq km.

As of July 2006, it is estimated to have a population of 219,246, primarily Melanesians and Europeans. Other ethnic groups include Wallisians, Polynesians, Indonesians and Vietnamese.

New Caledonia, whose capital is Noumea, has been an overseas territory of France since 1956. It was made a French possession in 1853 and served as a penal colony for four decades after 1864.

The struggle for independence during the 1980s and the early 1990s ended with the Noumea Accord in 1998, which will transfer an increasing amount of governing responsibility from France to New Caledonia over 15 to 20 years.

Said to have about 25 percent of the world's known nickel resources, New Caledonia's primary industries are nickel mining and smelting. It is also rich in chrome, iron, cobalt, manganese, silver, gold, lead and copper. Support from France and income from tourism are also keys to the health of the economy. *Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research*

TIMELINE

JUNE 11-12, 2006—THE NURSING board examination is conducted nationwide.

June 20—The Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) denies that test questions were leaked following rumors and a TV news report showing an examinee, her face hidden from the camera, claiming that a review center in Baguio City gave out questions.

July 15—The INQUIRER reports that the PRC has admitted to the leak and has traced it to two members of the Board of Nursing, Anesia Dionisio and Virginia Madeja. The PRC refers the matter to the National Bureau of Investigation.

July 18—Ray Gapuz admits at a press conference that his R.A. Gapuz Nursing Review Center gave its students a document containing test topics the day before the board exam was conducted. He says he did not know that the 18-page manuscript, which he says he received by fax on June 10, was a leak.

July 19—The exam results are released. Gringo de Guzman San Diego of the University of Pangasinan emerges No. 1 with a rating of 83.2 percent, besting 17,870 other successful examinees.

July 21—The University of Santo Tomas College of Nursing calls on the PRC to postpone the oath-taking of the new nurses until the controversy is resolved. (The PRC set the mass oath-taking on Aug. 22.)

July 27—The PRC says there is no stopping the mass oath-taking.

July 29—The INQUIRER reports that the PRC has decided to postpone the oath-taking while it deals with the controversy. A meeting of nursing deans is set on Aug. 15.

Aug. 16—The PRC says a retake of the nursing board exam is optional for those who passed it.

Aug. 17—The PRC announces that successful examinees may go to any PRC office in their respective areas and take their oath.

Aug. 18—The Court of Appeals issues a temporary restraining order putting off the planned Aug. 22 mass oath-taking for at least 60 days.

Aug. 26—The INQUIRER reports that Dante Ang, head of the Presidential Task Force on National Licensure Examinations that Malacañang formed to look into the leak, has petitioned the appellate court to invalidate the exam results and order a retake of the tests on two subjects.

"Nothing short of the invalidation and the retaking of the two leaked subjects can repair the damage done to the reputation and integrity of the nursing exam," Ang says, adding:

"The results of the examination are tainted with fraud and cannot be valid basis for determining who passed and did not pass ... and for administering the oath of those who supposedly passed."

Aug. 28—President Macapagal-Arroyo says it is up to the PRC chair, Dr. Leonor Tripon-Rosero, to find a solution to the controversy. "The guilty should be punished and the not guilty should not be punished," Ms Arroyo says.

Aug. 29—Malacañang appeals to hospitals to consider hiring the June exam passers.

"We believe that those who passed this board exam fairly should not suffer from the dishonest acts of an erring few," says Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye.

Aug. 30—Rosero tells the House committees on civil service and on good government that the PRC has released the recomputed exam results, adding 499 to the list of passers.

The PRC maintains its "no retake" stance and nullifies 90 of the 100 questions under Test V.

Sept. 26—Ms Arroyo orders retake of the board exam but leaves it to Labor Secretary Arturo Brion and the PRC to thresh out the details. *Inquirer Research*

Protests greet order to retake nursing exam

From page A1

of Negros Occidental, Iloilo, Antique, Aklan, Capiz and Guimaras.

Belated but welcome

In Baguio City, however, the group that exposed the leak of test questions welcomed Ms Arroyo's order for a retake.

Two nursing school deans, several members of the Philippine Nurses Association and 92 licensing applicants had filed the first complaint before the PRC, saying the R.A. Gapuz Review Center had circulated an 18-page test leak to its clients a day before the exam.

The group said Ms Arroyo's decision was "a belated but welcome development" considering "the indecisiveness with which the government handled the leakage issue."

It said the decision was a clear response to its complaints.

In Manila, Dr. Fe Marilyn Lorenzo, head of the University of the Philippines-Manila Institute of Health Policy and Development Studies, said she and her colleagues in health education were "happy" with the President's decision although it should have been made sooner.

"It would have been nicer if the Palace was more decisive. While belated, it is a welcome development," Lorenzo told the INQUIRER by phone.

She said she and her colleagues would speak with officials of other nursing schools to explain the situation and ask them to "open their gates for a review."

Lorenzo also called on members of the PRC to resign.

"Officials of the PRC should humbly bow out now voluntarily. The Palace decision has shown they have mishandled the case. They should have had a more enduring vision of the impact of their decisions. If this was Japan, they would have committed *seppuku* (ritual suicide)," she said.

Final order

Malacañang sought the cooperation of all concerned, saying the President's order for a retake of the licensure exam was "final" and in the national interest.

"Her only wish is to uphold the integrity of the Philippine nursing profession, which is known to be one of the best in the world," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said.

"The nursing profession is not only a shining symbol of the Filipino culture of caring, but [also] our source of pride and dignity in the international community," he said.

Bunye appealed to the parties concerned to "focus on a credible and untainted retake of the exam."

"Let us also ensure that this unfortunate incident is never repeated," he said. "The fortunes of thousands of nurses are at stake, and we must not let them down."

Petitions in peril

But the timing of Ms Arroyo's order imperils a series of petitions filed before the Court of Appeals seeking to block the licensing of the successful examinees, said Cheryl Daytec-Yangot, lawyer of the petitioners.

Yangot said the retake order could nullify the group's Sept. 20 petition for the appellate court to hold the PRC liable for a whitewash.

The petitioners included some of the original whistle-blowers, including 27 who failed the exam.

They asked the court to investigate the PRC for "unequivocally dismissing allegations of leakage even if it was in possession of overwhelming evidence" that cheating had occurred in the exam.

The petitioners said the PRC "prematurely released" the exam result even while the investigation of the leakage was in progress.

In a statement, Yangot and fellow lawyers George Andawi and Domingo Añonuevo said the retake order might have rendered "moot and academic" the petitioners' prayer for the re-administration of Test III and Test V.

"We will not relent in our determination to establish that the PRC-BON (Board of Nursing) acted with grave abuse of discretion amounting to lack or excess of jurisdiction. We will pursue the case to the finish," the lawyers said.

Political angle

A group of nursing students called the Alliance of New Nurses (ANN) said it saw a "political" angle in the retake order.

In an interview, ANN spokesperson Renato Aquino said the group was "shocked" by the decision given the President's purported support of the "no retake" position last month.

"Why the sudden turnaround? They (Malacañang) did not consult the PRC and the board passers. Some of the passers have already left for abroad to work or migrate," he said.

Aquino said the ANN had heard reports that Dante Ang, chair of the Commission on Filipinos Overseas that was negotiating to bring the US National Council Licensure Examinations (NCLEX) into the country, had convinced Labor Secretary Arturo Brion and Education Secretary Jesli Lapus to call for the retake.

Passing the NCLEX will allow Filipino nurses to practice their profession in specific areas in the United States.

"He (Ang) is using the leakage issue as a scapegoat for failing to bring in the NCLEX this year. He is trying to buy more time. But the leakage is not the reason why the NCLEX deal failed to push through; [the reason] was the peace and order situation in the country," Aquino said.

'Most unfair'

Ang, who is said to have Ms Arroyo's ear, denied having pressured other Cabinet members to back a retake.

"[Aquino's accusation] is most unfair. The issue was extensively debated in the Cabinet, and all angles, issues and concerns were discussed. The President heard all sides and her decision was made objectively," Ang told the INQUIRER.

He also said he had invited officials of the US National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) to the country to try to convince them to administer the NCLEX here.

He said his commission was "grilled" by the NCSBN officials about peace and order and the integrity of the Philippine nursing licensure system.

"We assured them that we can handle the peace and order situation and that we can vouch for the integrity of our board exams. I think they were convinced. If this controversy never happened, we would have already been administering the NCLEX here. The alleged leakage is an important issue for them, and with the President's announcement, we are showing we are addressing that," Ang said.

He also said not one Cabinet member was opposed to Ms Arroyo's stand.

On merit

But Dean Parreñas said the position of the Western Visayas nursing schools against a retake was shared by their counterparts in other provinces.

In the region, 2,424 students took the exam and 1,256 passed, according to PRC Regional Director Lily Ann Baldago.

Dr. Antonio Lim, dean of the St. Scholastica's College of Health and Sciences in Tacloban City, said the 63 students of the school who passed the exam did so on sheer "merit."

Student Margaret Leslie Bandoy made the No. 10 spot with an 80.41 grade.

"It is unfair. If they want to have another examination, we should not be included. Our students passed in an honest-to-goodness way," Lim said.

Norma Tupaz, officer in charge of PRC-Eastern Visayas, also said a retake would be unfair to the students.

"They have suffered much already as they have yet to secure their licenses. I think if that order of the President has to be followed, only the areas where cheating was identified to have happened should [be covered]," Tupaz said.

In Cebu, the current cry is: "Exclude Cebu nurses from the retake!"

Cebu City Councilor Edgardo Labella, who acts as counsel for a group of board passers in the city called Tanan or (Tapok-tapok sa Nagkahiusang Nurses Batok sa Retake), said it was drafting a letter asking the President to allow its exclusion from the retake.

Around 1,723 passers in Cebu have joined the group, Labella said.

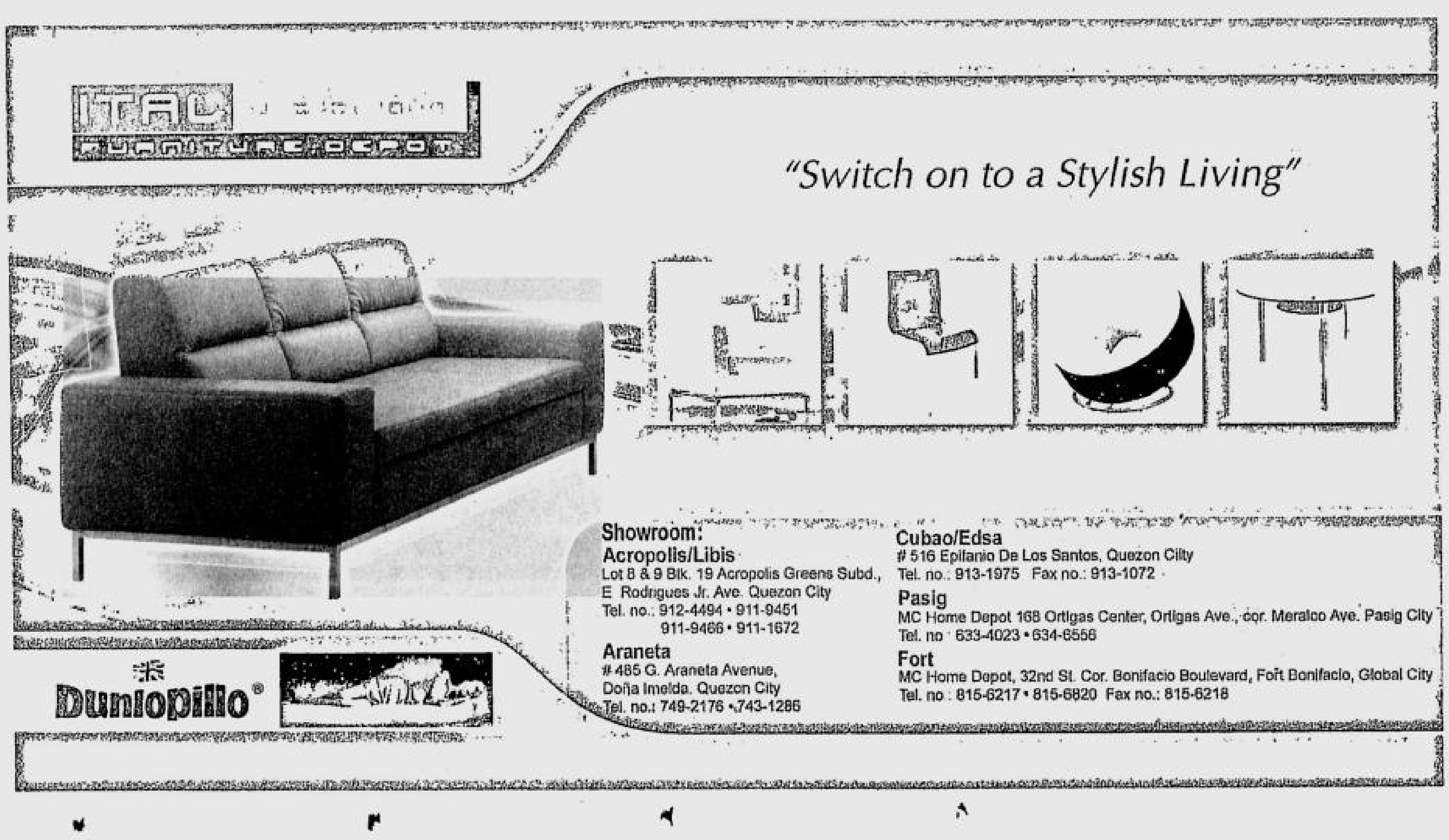
'If only...'

In the House, Deputy Minority Leader Gilbert Remulla said that "in this rare instance," Ms Arroyo "showed that cheating should not be condoned."

"If only she treated elections the same way," Remulla said, alluding to the purported fraud in the 2004 presidential election.

Remulla said he was in favor of a retake for Tests III and V.

He said the purported cheating affected not only the 42,000 students who took the exam but also the Philippine nursing community. *Reports from Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes and Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon; Carla P. Gomez, Joey A. Gabieta and Jhunnex Napallacan, Inquirer Visayas; Alcuin Papa, Christine O. Avendaño and Michael Lim Ubac in Manila*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UP to form legal, economic team on Guimaras

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES is forming a team of legal and economic experts to determine liability for the Guimaras oil spill and what legal action the university could take.

Marvic Leonen, the UP vice president for legal affairs, said the team would be drawn from the UP system, particularly UP Diliman and UP Visayas, and would include valuation experts to compute the damage.

"We've been affected twice, the Semirara and Guimaras spills ... We have marine reserves that are used for research," Leonen told a forum on the legal aspects of the oil spill in UP Diliman.

He did not reveal who the team members were nor the charges being readied in connection with the Guimaras spill.

A rapid assessment report completed by the Silliman University on Aug. 30, 19 days after the spill, placed the potential annual losses from fishery products because of damage to mangroves at P30 million, and from loss of wood products at P1.6 million.

The UP Visayas will come out with its three-month rapid assessment report in November. The school maintains the official information database on the spill. It has obtained a P100-million, 10-year grant to help in the rehabilitation of Guimaras. *Blanche S. Rivera*

New law on juvenile justice weak–CBCP

By Leila B. Salaverria

A COMMITTEE IN THE CATHOLIC BISHops Conference of the Philippines concerned with the issue of child protection has criticized the recently passed Juvenile Justice Law for being "weak" and called for its amendment.

In a statement, the CBCP's Episcopal Commission on Prison Pastoral Care said the Juvenile Justice Law, or Republic Act No. 9344, was not specific on how the restorative justice portion of the law would be carried out.

Under the law, children aged 15 years and younger when they commit an offense are exempt from criminal liability. If they are over 15 but under 18, they may be charged if they committed the offense knowing it was a crime.

Alternative to detention

ECPPC executive secretary Rodolfo Diamante said that under the law, children in conflict with the law may undergo a "diversion program" to determine their responsibility and treatment. This would involve their families and communities and is meant to be an alternative to detention.

But he said the ECPPC, as well as the Coalition Against the Death Penalty, Philippine Action for Youth Offenders (Payo) and other groups, had questioned aspects of the law during a forum last week.

"The diversion aspect is weak and limited. The aim of this is to work outside court proceedings and it is not clear how it will work," Diamante said in a statement.

Conflicting procedures

He said this was because in some cases only the courts could resort to diversion.

He questioned this, saying that if this were the case, it would mean the child would still be undergoing court proceedings.

He said diversion would be better but the child should undergo it before he is placed under the jurisdiction of the courts.

Diamante said the groups that studied the Juvenile Justice Law found conflicting procedures regarding the determination of a child offender's discernment, or the mental capacity to determine right and wrong.

Loopholes

The penalty for a child offender differs depending on whether or not he acted with discernment when he committed the offense.

Diamante said a new law should be crafted to correct the loopholes in the Juvenile Justice Law, adding that the ECPPC and other groups would support an alternative juvenile justice bill crafted by Payo that has a restorative justice paradigm.

Only 1/3 of RP seamen make it to management

By Jerome Aning

DESPITE THE COUNTRY'S LEADership in supplying manpower to international seafaring, only about a third of the Filipino seamen occupy management level positions, the Department of Labor and Employment said.

Citing a survey conducted by the National Maritime Polytechnic in 2005, Labor Secretary Arturo Brion said on Tuesday that senior and junior officers among the Filipino seafarers constituted only 10 percent and 24 percent, respectively.

The NMP is a government-run institution based in Tacloban City which gives additional training to seafarers to boost their careers and raise their competitiveness.

The survey looked at the profile of the Filipino merchant marine officers occupying management level positions, including personal and occupational factors that affected career advancement.

The Secretary said that the Philippines is the leading supplier of maritime manpower with Filipino seafarers comprising almost 30 percent of the world's seafarers.

He lamented, however, that the country's share of senior officers in the global fleet is only 14.8 percent.

More training

There is an urgent need for all stakeholders in the seafaring industry to collectively provide for the development of marine cadets and crew in officership to sustain the country's dominance in international seafaring and take advantage of the growing global demand for marine officers, he added.

Today, according to Undersecretary for Employment Danilo Cruz, most Filipino seafarers currently abroad or waiting to be deployed are graduates of two-year associate courses in marine engineering and thus have to take additional training to qualify as officer.

"Many are contented with the salary they are earning and would not want additional responsibilities (when they become officers) not only because they would have to take several training courses, but also because they would be away from their families for a longer time," he explained.

Projections indicate that the demand for marine officers worldwide would reach 430,000, surpassing the available supply estimated at 379,000 by 2010.

Meanwhile, demand for ratings or non-officer seamen is expected to remain constant at a little over 600,000.

Specifically, Brion called for more seafarer training centers and manning firms to design subjects and mentoring programs geared towards developing achievement motivation among marine crew and cadets.

According to the survey, the "desire for achievement" ranks the strongest motivator in a Filipino merchant marine officer's decision to pursue a higher position on board.

Strong motivation

"Challenge for higher responsibility" is another strong motivator that fuels seafarers' success.

Seafarers who reached the highest positions also remained highly focused on achieving what is considered as one of the peaks of the seafaring career which is to take command as Captain or Chief Engineer of a ship.

At the same time, the study perceived that majority of the Filipino seafarers who opted to stay in lower positions simply viewed seafaring as a means of livelihood to send their children to school, secure a house and lot, and save some amount for a small business enterprise.

The study also showed that those already on management level have the propensity to hop from one company to another as they look for better recruitment and hiring policies, communication processes, mentoring relationships and promotion and training opportunities.

Survey data showed that almost half of the deck and engine officer-respondents (49 percent) served only for five years or less in their present companies. Only 24 percent have been in their companies for six to 10 years.

Data from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration showed that a total of 247,751 Filipino seamen were deployed overseas in 2005. Sea-based remittances reached $1.6 million during the same period.

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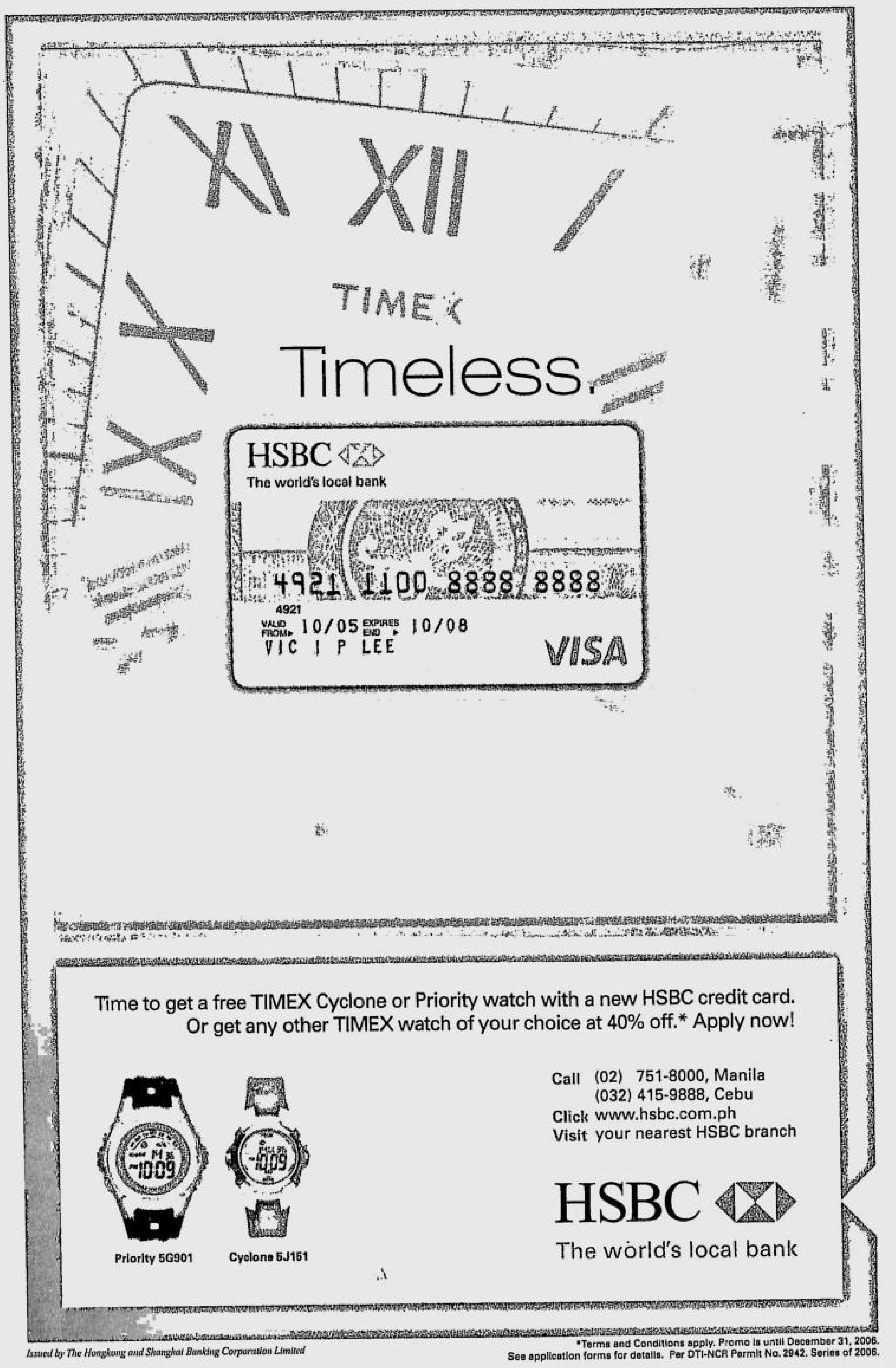

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Labor group seeks instant oil price cuts

By Jerome Aning

THE TRADE UNION CONGRESS OF THE Philippines demanded yesterday "instant rollbacks" in electricity and water rates, citing the "twin deflationary factors" of plunging oil prices and the peso's surge against the US dollar.

"Rollbacks are definitely warranted, particularly in the user rates of utilities that benefit directly from lower-priced fuel and the cheaper dollar," TUCP secretary-general Ernesto Herrera said in a statement.

"There is absolutely no justification for utilities to continue charging consumers exceedingly lofty rates in the face of these highly favorable conditions," the former senator added.

Quick relief

He said it has "become abundantly clear that consumers are entitled to quick relief from elevated rates that have the detrimental impact of a burdensome indirect tax."

Regulators, therefore, should move at once to induce the rollbacks, he added.

The labor leader also noted that world crude oil prices were now lower by more than 18 percent from recent highs, while the peso has gained over 10 percent against the dollar compared to a year ago.

Automatic downward revisions

As of Sept. 20, the average benchmark Dubai crude nose-dived by $12.46 or 18.1 percent, to $56.47 per barrel from $68.93 in August. As a result, this month alone, local oil companies slashed their pump prices four times.

Meanwhile, the peso averaged 51.36 to the dollar last month, up 8.2 percent (or P4.59) from 55.95 to the dollar in August 2005. The peso closed Wednesday at 50.21 to the dollar, up another 2.3 percent (or P1.15) against last month's foreign exchange average.

Utilities are supposed to have foreign currency adjustment mechanisms that lead to automatic downward revisions in their rates once the peso advances against the dollar, said Herrera.

GLOBE VILLAGE
Officials of telecoms giant Globe Telecommunications and Gawad Kalinga lead the recent groundbreaking rites for the Globe-TM Village, which will build 50 homes in Bagong Silang, Caloocan City, one of the biggest squatter relocation areas in the country. Over 100 families are the beneficiaries from the initiative. In photo are Globe president Gerry Ablaza (second from right) with (right top left) Gawad Kalinga executive director Tony Meloto; Globe Consumer Wireless Group Head Ferdz de la Cruz; Globe chief operating adviser Andrew Buay; Caloocan City engineer Rolando Eduria; and National Housing Authority Bagong Silang project manager Ramon Reside.

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Mining investors present plans to officials today

PROSPECTIVE INVESTORS IN THE LOCAL mining industry will present today to a panel of environment and mining officials their social and technical plans for their projects before they would be allowed to engage in exploration or production activities.

"We want to have a clear view of the proponents' credentials and track record, particularly their financial and technical capability to undertake responsible mining," Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes said in a statement yesterday. "More than that, we want to be certain that [they] put a premium on their social responsibility."

Seventeen foreign companies have expressed interest in mining gold, copper, iron, chromite and other minerals in the country. Their presentations will serve as a basis for the granting of 10 mineral production sharing agreements and seven exploration permits.

Reyes said prospective investors will now be required to make project presentations to enable the DENR to determine the serious investors from the speculators.

Four of the companies scheduled to make their presentations are MRL Gold Phils. Inc. (99.99-percent Canadian), Egerton Gold Phils. Inc. (40-percent Australian), Buena Suerte Mining Corp. (40-percent Australian) and Manila Mining Corp.-Anglo American.

The other interested companies are Colossal Mining Corp., Hard Rock Trading Inc., TMC International Corp., Itawes Mining Exploration Corp. and Norweah Metals and Minerals Inc.

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PHILHEALTH CIRCULAR
No. 23 s-2006

TO : ALL CONCERNED

SUBJECT : Expanded Coverage of PhilHealth Normal Spontaneous Delivery Package in PhilHealth Accredited Hospitals and Maternity Care Package in PhilHealth Accredited Non-Hospital Facilities (Lying-In Clinics)

Please be guided by the following amendments as provided by PhilHealth Board Resolution number 923 series of 2006:

A. Inclusion

1. Starting 1 October 2006, PhilHealth will reimburse uncomplicated deliveries of the first three (3) births
2. This amendment applies only to normal spontaneous delivery (NSD) package in hospitals and maternity care package in lying-in clinics.
3. A case rate of P4,500 shall be paid to accredited providers of the NSD and maternity care package. For hospitals, payment for health professionals is set at 2,000 pesos while 2,500 pesos is for the facilities. In non-hospital facilities, first payment of 3,650 pesos is paid after delivery and a second payment worth 850 pesos is paid after post-natal consultation and family planning services.
4. Normal birth is characterized by spontaneous onset of labor; low risk at the start of labor, throughout labor, and delivery; infant in vertex position; and 37-42 weeks of completed pregnancy.
5. For lying-in clinics, additional requirements for coverage includes the following:
   a. First prenatal visit of patient must not exceed the four (4) months age of gestation (or 16 weeks age of gestation)

B. Exclusion

1. NSD of the 4th and subsequent births are not covered by PhilHealth.

Example 1:

Pregnancy	Outcome	Lying-in Clinics	Hospitals
1st	normal delivery	Covered (Package)	Covered (Package)
2nd	normal delivery	Covered (Package)	Covered (Package)
3rd	normal delivery	Covered (Package)	Covered (Package)
4th	normal delivery	Not covered	Not covered

2. It is reiterated that the following conditions remain to be excluded in PhilHealth accredited non-hospital facilities:
   a. maternal age under 19 years old
   b. first pregnancy of patients aged 35 years and older
   c. multiple pregnancy
   d. ovarian abnormality (ovarian cyst)
   e. uterine abnormality (myoma uteri)
   f. placental abnormality (placenta previa)
   g. abnormal fetal presentations (breech)
   h. history of three (3) or more miscarriages/abortion
   i. history of one (1) stillbirth
   j. history of major obstetric and/or gynecologic operation (cesarean section, uterine myomectomy)
   k. history of medical conditions (e.g., hypertension, pre-eclampsia, eclampsia, heart disease, diabetes, thyroid disorder, morbid obesity, moderate to severe asthma, epilepsy, renal disease, bleeding disorders)
   l. other risk factors that may arise during present pregnancy (e.g., premature contractions, vaginal bleeding) that warrants a referral for further management

Example 2:

Pregnancy	Outcome	Lying-in Clinics	Hospitals
1st	cesarean delivery	Not covered	Covered (RVS 59514)
2nd	normal delivery	Not covered	Covered as VBAC (RVS 59612)
3rd	normal delivery	Not covered	Covered (Package)
4th	normal delivery	Not covered	Not covered

Example 3:

Pregnancy	Outcome	Lying-in Clinics	Hospitals
1st	breech delivery	Not covered	Covered (RVS 59411/59514)
2nd	normal delivery	Covered (Package)	Covered (Package)
3rd	normal delivery	Covered (Package)	Covered (Package)
4th	normal delivery	Not covered	Not covered

Example 4:

Pregnancy	Outcome	Lying-in Clinics	Hospitals
1st	preterm delivery	Not covered	Covered (RVS 59409)
2nd	normal delivery	Covered (Package)	Covered (Package)
3rd	normal delivery	Covered (Package)	Covered (Package)
4th	normal delivery	Not covered	Not covered

Example 5:

Pregnancy	Outcome	Lying-in Clinics	Hospitals
1st	stillbirth	Not covered	Covered (RVS 59409)
2nd	normal delivery	Not covered	Covered (Package)
3rd	normal delivery	Not covered	Covered (Package)
4th	normal delivery	Not covered	Not covered

3. Pregnancies resulting to abortions are not covered by the limitation of coverage of vaginal deliveries of the first three births. The code and Relative Value Unit (RVU) for the completion of incomplete abortion in the Relative Value Scale (RVS) is as follows:

CODE	DESCRIPTIVE TERMS	RVU
59812	Treatment of incomplete abortion, any trimester, completed surgically	40

Example 6:

Pregnancy	Outcome	Lying-in Clinics	Hospitals
1st	normal delivery 1st	Covered (Package)	Covered (Package)
2nd	abortion	Not covered	Covered (RVS 59812)
3rd	normal delivery 2nd	Covered (Package)	Covered (Package)
4th	normal delivery 3rd	Covered (Package)	Covered (Package)
5th	normal delivery 4th	Not covered	Not covered

Example 7:

Pregnancy	Outcome	Lying-in Clinics	Hospitals
1st	abortion	Not covered	Covered (RVS 59812)
2nd	abortion	Not covered	Covered (RVS 59812)
3rd	abortion	Not covered	Covered (RVS 59812)
4th	normal delivery 1st	Not covered	Covered (Package)
5th	normal delivery 2nd	Not covered	Covered (Package)
6th	normal delivery 3rd	Not covered	Covered (Package)
7th	normal delivery 4th	Not covered	Not covered

C. Contribution Requirements

1. Individually Paying Program (IPP) members availing the normal spontaneous delivery and maternity care package are required nine (9) months of premium payment within the immediate twelve (12) months prior to delivery.
2. However, IPP members enrolled as members of KASAPI organized groups shall only be required three (3) months of contribution within the immediate six (6) months prior to delivery
3. Employed members are required three (3) months of contribution within the immediate six (6) months prior to delivery.
4. Sponsored members may avail of this benefit within the validity period stated in their PhilHealth Membership Identification Card or Certificate of Eligibility (Form CE1) as per PhilHealth Circular No. 3 s.2005.
5. OWP members or their dependents may avail of this benefit within the validity period stated in their Medicare Eligibility Certificate (MCE), PhilHealth Certificate of Eligibility (PCE) or Enhanced Member's Data Record (MDR).

D. Claims Filing

1. PhilHealth Claim Form No. 4, in lieu of Claim Form 2, shall be used by hospitals in filing claims for the NSD package.
2. Non-hospital facilities are required to submit PhilHealth Claim Forms 4 and 4A for the 1st claim (prenatal, delivery, newborn care). For the second claim (postnatal care and family planning services), Claim Forms 4 and 4B must be submitted.

This Circular shall take effect for all claims with admission dates starting October 1, 2006. All other issuances inconsistent with this circular are hereby modified or repealed accordingly.

(Sgd.) LORNA O. FAJARDO, CESO III
Acting President and CEO

Date signed: August 22, 2006

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Per DTI NCR Permit # A1 - 796 Series of 2006

Damage placed at ₱180M in Samar, Leyte provinces

By Carla P. Gomez, Joey A. Gabieta, Vicente S. Labro, Nestor P. Burgos Jr. and Jhunnex Napallacan
Inquirer Visayas

INFRASTRUCTURE, PRIVATE property and crops worth at least P180 million in Samar and Leyte were damaged by Typhoon "Milenyo," disaster coordinating officials said yesterday.

A number of roads on Samar and Leyte islands were not passable due to landslides and damaged bridges. Northern Samar was still without electricity.

Eduard Fortaleza, Antique provincial legal officer, said three confirmed deaths from drowning were reported in other parts of the province, but none in Barbaza town, which was badly hit by flooding.

He said that in Tibiao town in northern Antique, Catherine Pablo, 9, drowned in the Tibiao River, while Benjie Vegafria, a lineman of the Antique Electric Cooperative, was electrocuted while repairing an electric line on Wednesday.

In Sibalom town, Al Hernade, 26, also drowned on Wednesday, he said.

In Pavia town in Iloilo, Richard Capinianes Jr., 19, was reported missing after he drowned in the Aganan River, according to Rosario Cabrera, National Disaster Coordinating Council regional director.

Cabrera said there was flooding in 14 barangays in Iloilo City that affected 26,508 people but by yesterday afternoon the flooding had begun to subside.

Sixty-eight residents of Sitio Kamoncilan in Barangay San Antonio in Barbaza, who on Wednesday were isolated by floods, were rescued yesterday, according to Antique Gov. Sally Perez.

Flooding was also reported in Maasin and Pavia towns.

In Negros Occidental, flooding was reported in some areas in Ilog town and in Kabankalan City.

Based on reports of the region's Office of Civil Defense and the Department of Public Works and Highways, Northern Samar reported the biggest destruction to its road network, estimated at P120 million.

Overall damage to infrastructure in the region was placed at P178.6 million and damage to crops at P2 million, according to OCD-8.

Rey Gozon, administrator of OCD-8 and Nestor Parsaratonga, of the maintenance division of DPWH-8, said the amount of the damage was expected to increase because they were still awaiting reports from other provinces.

Parsaratonga said that except for Eastern Samar, the rest of the region's provinces had already submitted "partial reports" on the destruction to their roads due to the storm.

He said Leyte province reported P24 million in damage to infrastructure; Biliran, P4.1 million; Southern Leyte, P15.5 million, and Samar, P10 million.

"All the destroyed infrastructure reported by these provinces through their engineering districts were national and municipal roads and surfacing materials, which were washed out due to the storm," Parsaratonga told the INQUIRER.

Gozon said that in Catarman, the capital of Northern Samar, 713 people were affected by flash floods.

In Kananga, Leyte, its local disaster council reported that P5 million in infrastructure and P2 million of its crops were destroyed by the storm.

Several gmelina trees were also uprooted along the Bugko-Nenita road in Northern Samar, making that section impassable to traffic, a DPWH report said.

The same DPWH report said landslides had occurred along the Padre Burgos-Malitbog road section and the Mahaplag-Sogod road section, both in Southern Leyte. Road damage in Southern Leyte, including on those two road sections, was placed at P15.5 million.

In Leyte, a portion of the Palompon-Isabel road was closed to traffic after the Pagsangaan Bridge in Barangay Liloan in Ormoc City was damaged.

In the Leyte third engineering district, some roads became hardly passable or impassable after the heavy rains washed out surfacing materials. The engineering district reported that restoration of the damaged roads would cost P24 million.

The Samar first engineering district based in Calbayog City reported that a landslide had occurred along the Allen-Calbayog road of the Maharlika Highway and a section of the Calbayog-Catarman road was flooded. The district office reported that restoring these sections would cost P10 million.

In Barbaza, Antique, rescuers managed to reach the 68 residents trapped in Sitio Kamunsilan yesterday morning.

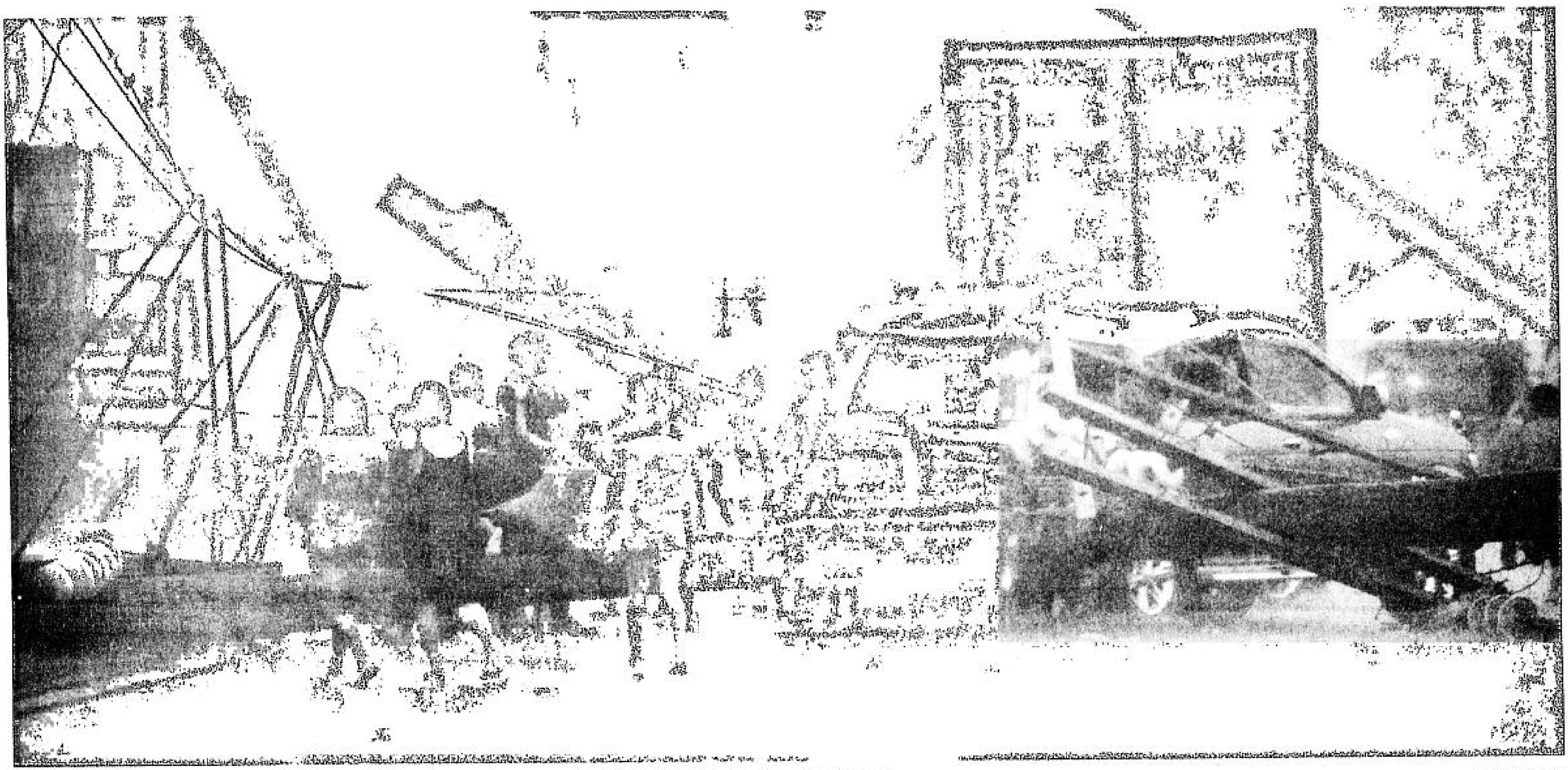
The residents, who were mostly wet and hungry, were brought to the municipal building, Antique provincial disaster council coordinator Broderick Train told the INQUIRER.

A 7-year-old child and a 60-year-old woman, both suffering from high fever, were taken to the Pedro Gindap Memorial Hospital.

The residents had been trapped since Tuesday after the Daranas River overflowed.

Train said the rescuers had to use rope to guide them as they waded through the swollen river and flooded areas.

Portions of the national road in Barangay Caromangay in Hamtic town and in Barangay Igdalaquit in Tobias Fornier town were still impassable due to landslides, according to the OCD report.



ELECTRIC posts and building materials fell on an SUV and a container van on Road 10 in North Bay Boulevard in Navotas.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Luzon plunged into darkness

From page A1

Favila said Transco personnel were working on the problem.

Jesusito Sulit, Transco vice president for systems operations, said the company declared a Luzon-wide system collapse at 12:58 p.m. yesterday although it had been experiencing problems since early morning.

Sulit said power plants tripped when distribution lines were damaged by fallen trees.

He said power was fully restored to the northern and central Luzon provinces at 4:25 p.m.

5,000 MW ready

Transco president Art Aguilar said 5,000 megawatts were ready to be supplied to Metro Manila and Central Luzon, "except that local distribution agencies experienced many line faults due to fallen trees and billboards."

"So they are not ready to receive power," he said.

Aguilar said that as of 6 p.m., only 700 MW of the available 5,000 MW were being utilized.

"All of Bicol has no power," he said. "There are 15 toppled towers in Bicol, and repair cannot start until daylight tomorrow."

Transco spokesperson Arvee Villena said its emergency response units were tapping hydropower plants in the North and in Central Luzon to help restart base load power plants that shut down in the course of the systemwide power failure.

He said that as was usual in blackouts, transmission lines tripped when the supply gave out in portions of the grid, causing imbalance in the grid's power load, which in turn caused plants running around the clock to stop.

"We will rely on hydro plants like Magat in Isabela, Pantabangan in Nueva Ecija and Ambuklao in Benguet," Villena said.

"These would provide the power that would start up the base load plants like Sual in Pangasinan and Masinloc in Zambales," he said.

The hydro-electric plants are considered "black start power plants" which can rely on self-generated electricity to start their generation units. Base load power plants need power from outside sources to start running.

9 in southern Luzon

Quoting reports, Villena said that as of 2 p.m. yesterday, at least nine Transco towers in southern Luzon had been toppled.

"At least three others were reported to have gone down, but the information still has to be verified," he said.

Villena said toppled towers did not necessarily mean longer time to restore power, especially if the affected transmission lines were provided with backups.

National Power Corp. assured the public that there was "more than enough" power to meet electricity requirements.

"Power generation facilities are not as affected as transmission or distribution facilities by typhoons. Power lines are exposed, making them more vulnerable to the elements," the state-owned generation firm said in a statement.

Napocor added that upon the instruction of the Department of Energy, all agencies involved in the supply of power had been placed on full typhoon alert.

It said Transco, distribution utilities and electricity cooperatives had been "working around the clock since this morning" to repair whatever they could.

"But this is an exceptionally strong typhoon, and it may take a while to repair all of the affected lines at the same time," it said, adding:

"Line patrol is difficult to undertake while typhoon Milenyo is still raging. As soon as the weather clears, restoration efforts shall immediately be undertaken."

Meralco numbers

In its own statement, Manila Electric Co. said it had put in place necessary measures to mitigate the potential effects of Milenyo.

Meralco vice president Elpi Cuna said the utility firm had issued advisories on problems that could be triggered by the typhoon, along with appropriate precautionary steps to be taken.

"Meralco, for instance, has consistently requested billboard owners and operators to temporarily roll up their billboards to prevent these structures from being toppled by the strong winds," Cuna said.

Billboards and tree branches that fall on electrical facilities are among the major causes of power outages during bad weather, Cuna said.

Should power interruptions occur, the public should tune in to public service radio stations with which the Meralco Call Center is in direct coordination, he said.

The public may also call the Meralco Call Center at 16211 or 632-1111, or text concerns to (0917) 847-6908.

Cuna warned, however, that because of the voluminous number of calls, there might be instances when the call center would be unable to immediately process calls.

EVACUEES from the storm take shelter at the St. John Parish Church in Calamba, Laguna.

EGAY MONTANA

STRANDED commuters hitch ride on a truck along Ortigas Avenue in Cainta, Rizal, Thursday.

ADELLE GERALDO

ENT OF THE INTERIOR AND L
WELCOME

NEW DILG ASSISTANT SECRETARY: Interior and Local Government Secretary Ronaldo V. Puno administers the oath of office to Brian Raymund S. Yamsuan as new DILG assistant secretary in a simple ceremony at the DILG Central Office Quezon City recently. Witnessing the oathtaking are his wife, INQUIRER reporter Catherine Yamsuan, and his parents, Bernardo and Aurora Yamsuan.

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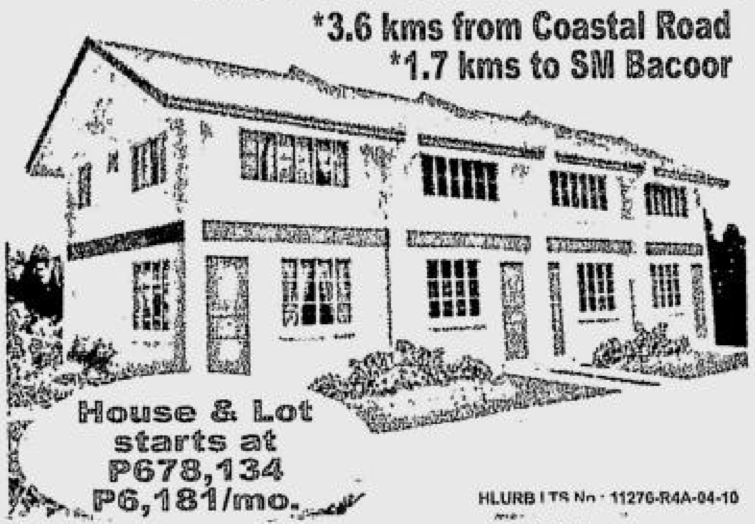

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Leftist solons dared to assail NPA misdeeds

By Norman Bordadora

AN ANTICOMMUNIST ORGANIZATION YESterday challenged leftist party-list representatives to denounce the atrocities allegedly committed by the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army, particularly on its own ranks in the violent purges in the 1980s.

The Alliance for Nationalism and Democracy (ANAD) said congressmen belonging to Bayan Muna, Anakpawis and Gabriela should prove they were not fronting for the communist insurgency by condemning the killings and torture allegedly perpetrated by the CPP and its guerrilla wing, the NPA.

"(Bayan Muna Rep. Satur) Ocampo and his party-list colleagues in Congress should issue a clear and categorical statement condemning the killings and other atrocities committed by the CPP-NPA instead of resorting to the smoke-and-mirrors tactic of pinning the blame on the military for the incessant waves of summary executions," said ANAD leader Pastor Alcover.

Alcover said former NPA commander Rodolfo Salas, alias Kumander Bilog, had admitted in a recent news report that extremist forces in the communist movement were responsible for the bloody purges as well as other crimes.

Salas, he said, revealed that among the victims of CPP-NPA hit squads were erstwhile ranking communist leaders Romulo Kintanar, Arturo Tabara and Bartolome Quizon.

"Party-list and other militant groups have a lot of explaining to do to the public why they find it easy to condemn the assassinations of members of their allied organizations, yet find it extremely difficult to denounce the atrocities committed by the CPP-NPA, when it is this underground movement that obviously has a clear-cut policy on killings," Alcover said.

The communist movement had admitted to and expressed regret over the internal purges of the '80s. From 1982 to 1989, the CPP-NPA conducted such campaigns as Oplan Cadena de Amor, Kampanyang Ahos, Oplan Missing Link and Oplan Olympia to cleanse its ranks purportedly of government "deep penetration agents."

The more recent killings of alleged leftist and other activist leaders nationwide has been blamed on the military, a charge the latter has denied.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, September 29, 2006
Michael, Raphael & Gabriel, Archangels
1st Reading: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 (or Rev 12:7-12)
Gospel: John 1:47-51

When Jesus saw Nathanael coming, he said of him, "Here comes an Israelite, a true one; there is nothing false in him." Nathanael asked him, "How do you know me?" And Jesus said to him, "Before Philip called you, you were under the fig tree and I saw you."

Nathanael answered, "Master, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" But Jesus replied, "You believe because I said: 'I saw you under the fig tree.' But you will see greater things than that.

Truly, I say to you, you will see the heavens opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

Commentary

War in heaven: those who honor God and are obedient to God's Word triumph; while Satan, anyone and anything that hinders the Word of God and deceives the children of God is hurled down to earth. This is an epic story of good and evil and victory belongs to those who do good, who live and die without violence on earth, who are witnesses to the truth by martyrdom. It is given to those who love life, yet lay it down if necessary. They do not take lives just to proclaim their belief. War in heaven is different from war on earth and though there are those driven out, nobody dies in the name of religion or God. We are not alone in our struggle: creatures of light serve with us, they honor God and will be a part of the judgment upon the earth, as they were once judged. They serve the Son of Man—do we?

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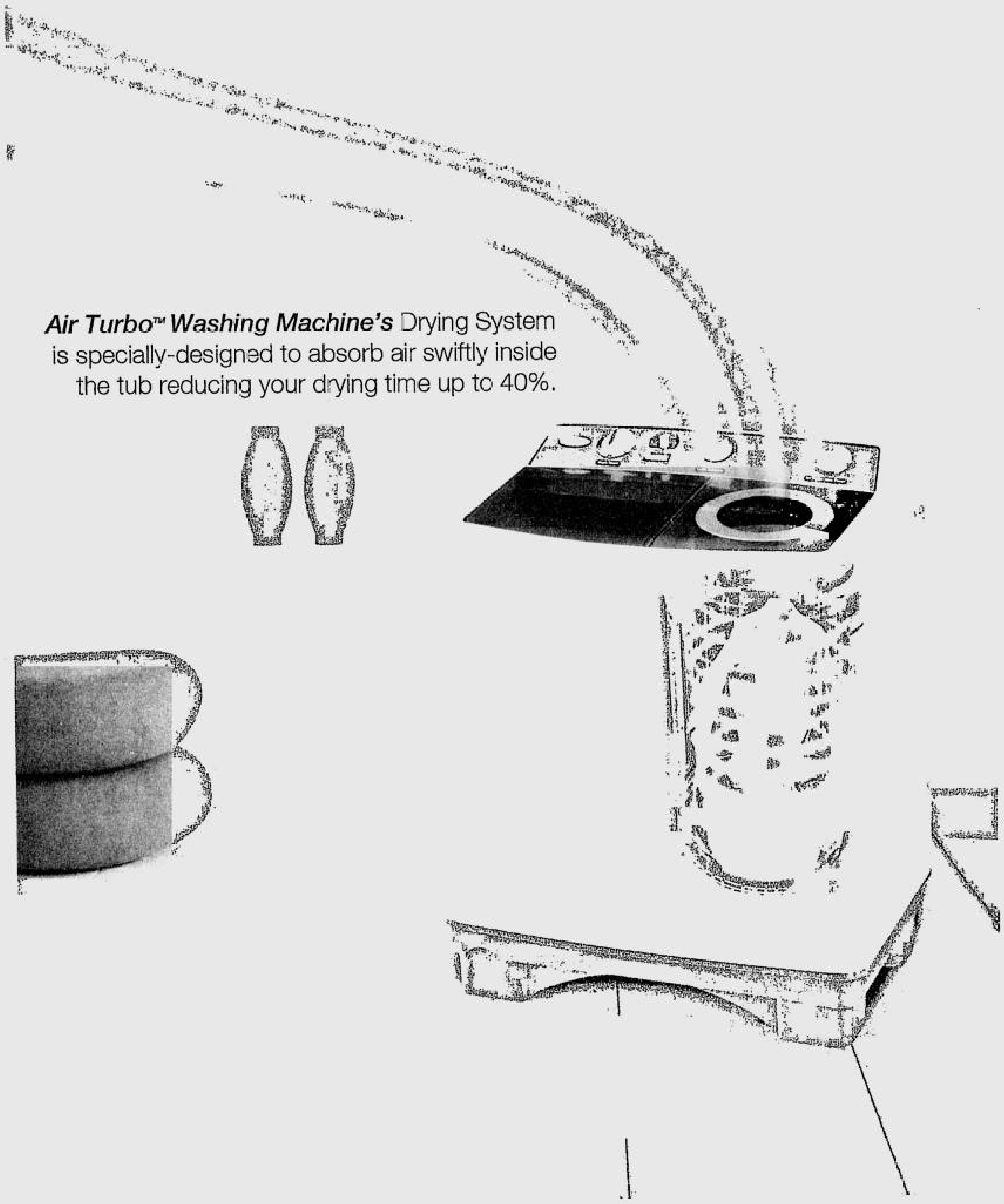
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Economic managers scramble to minimize Milenyo's impact

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

ECONOMIC MANAGERS ARE scrambling to minimize the impact of "Milenyo," which the National Disaster Coordinating Council has dubbed the worst storm to hit the country in two decades.

President Macapagal-Arroyo summed it up at the NDCC meeting when she warned that the country was taking "a big hit" from the storm. The President was forced to remain at Clark, Pampanga, and preside over the NDCC meeting by teleconference because the roads had become impassable.

Trade Secretary Peter Favila said the economic team was concerned about how fast power could be restored in the Luzon grid, and how soon the vital supply chains from Southern Luzon to Metro Manila could be brought back to normal.

"It's still too early to tell if the storm would have an impact on our economic growth," Favila said after the NDCC press conference at Camp Aguinaldo.

"But when you call this the worst storm in the country in 20 years, it will certainly have an impact. That is why we are mobilizing our resources to minimize the impact," he said.

Favila said the country could not afford a lengthy power blackout because this would force industries in the most potent economic regions to grind to a halt.

Office of Civil Defense spokesperson Anthony Golez said that as of yesterday afternoon, the worst hit were Regions 5, 6 and 8 in terms of affected population and destroyed property.

Agriculture

Ms Arroyo told the Cabinet officials over the phone to stay on top of the situation.

MILENYO'S winds tear to shreds the Philippine flags ringing Malacañang Palace. LYN RILLON

"I'll try to go back to Manila as soon as I can. The NDCC must be on top of this," she said.

Another cause for concern, Favila said, was the storm's impact on the farming sector.

"Agriculture contributed significantly to economic growth in the first six months of the year, and the storm has certainly caused damage to our crops. We hope that our initial findings prove to be correct—that the damage will be minimal," he said.

Presidential Management Staff chief Arthur Yap downplayed the impact of Milenyo on agriculture.

"Our initial reports are encouraging," he said, but noted that the export-oriented seaweed industry had been devastated by the storm.

The seaweed industry is expected to take a hit of at least $10 million, after strong waves wiped out production facilities.

Yap said the economic team was more worried about Milenyo's impact on the agriculture and food supply chain from the Visayas and Southern Tagalog to Metro Manila.

Heavy rains and strong winds led to flooding and widespread property damage, causing a blockade of the main arteries from the south of Metro Manila.

"Our goal is to make the roads passable again to prevent a supply shock of food commodities in Metro Manila," said Yap.

Rice, corn crops

Agriculture Undersecretary Salvador Salacup said Milenyo had so far damaged 400 hectares of rice fields and 20 hectares of corn fields.

The supply impact will likely be felt in December, he said.

Salacup said that while the storm's impact on agriculture was likely to be minimal on a national scale, the breakdown in the supply chain would take a heavy toll on Metro Manila.

According to his estimate, the regions south of Metro Manila that were in the path of Milenyo provided up to 15 percent of the metropolis' vegetable, fish, rice and corn supplies.

"Some entrepreneurs and retailers will look at this as an emergency situation," Salacup said.

With a report from Dona Z. Pazzibugan

Typhoon batters Metro, Bicol

From page A1

schools, roads, bridges and other infrastructure at P200 million. He said that 85 percent of the crops in the province were damaged.

President Macapagal-Arroyo was trapped by Milenyo at the Clark economic zone in Pampanga. She tried to return to Manila in the midst of the storm to preside over a meeting of the National Disaster Coordinating Council, but was forced to turn back, the government-run Radyo ng Bayan said.

Classes are still suspended in all levels in Metro Manila today. Education Secretary Jesli Lapus yesterday said that classes remained suspended to give local governments time to clear roads of debris.

Lapus said classes in Rizal, Laguna, Batangas, Cavite and Bulacan may resume today.

Weakened

Milenyo weakened into a storm with winds of 110 kilometers per hour but picked up speed by 17 to 19 kph when it smashed through the country's capital at around 10 a.m. It was packing maximum winds of 130 kph and gusts of up to 160 kph when it made landfall in Northern Samar on Wednesday morning.

Forecasters said Milenyo would likely strengthen back to a typhoon when it hits the South China Sea. The storm is headed westward and is expected to reach Vietnam late on Sunday.

"The worst is over for Metro Manila," Pagasa weather branch chief Nathaniel Cruz said. "You cannot expect a 180-degree turn immediately, of course. It will continue to rain for the next several days but we have improving weather," he said.

Milenyo was headed for Bataan and Zambales as of 4 p.m. yesterday, its center spotted 100 km south of Metro Manila. It had slightly weakened.

Eye of storm

Calm settled in the southern part of Metro Manila just before noon yesterday when the typhoon's eye passed over it, allowing residents to quickly repair loosened metal sheet roofing, cut down trees blocking roads and talk to their neighbors.

Less than an hour later, the fierce winds and driving rains were back.

The metropolis' streets were empty as most of its 12 million residents took shelter from flying debris.

"It sounded like a train passed on the roof," said one occupant of a fourth-floor apartment. "Then the roof in one of our rooms was gone. I can now see the sky."

Taxis were reluctant to take to the road. "It's too dangerous," said Armando Legaspi, a cab driver.

Between Alabang and the Bicutan interchange on the South Luzon Expressway, some 25 billboards lay toppled. A giant billboard blocked the west side of the service road just before Bicutan.

Hundreds of motorists were stranded along the Old National Highway in Sta. Rosa, Calamba and Biñan, Laguna, due to waist-deep floods.

The collection of tolls on the South Luzon Expressway, which was littered by fallen trees, was suspended for two days until today.

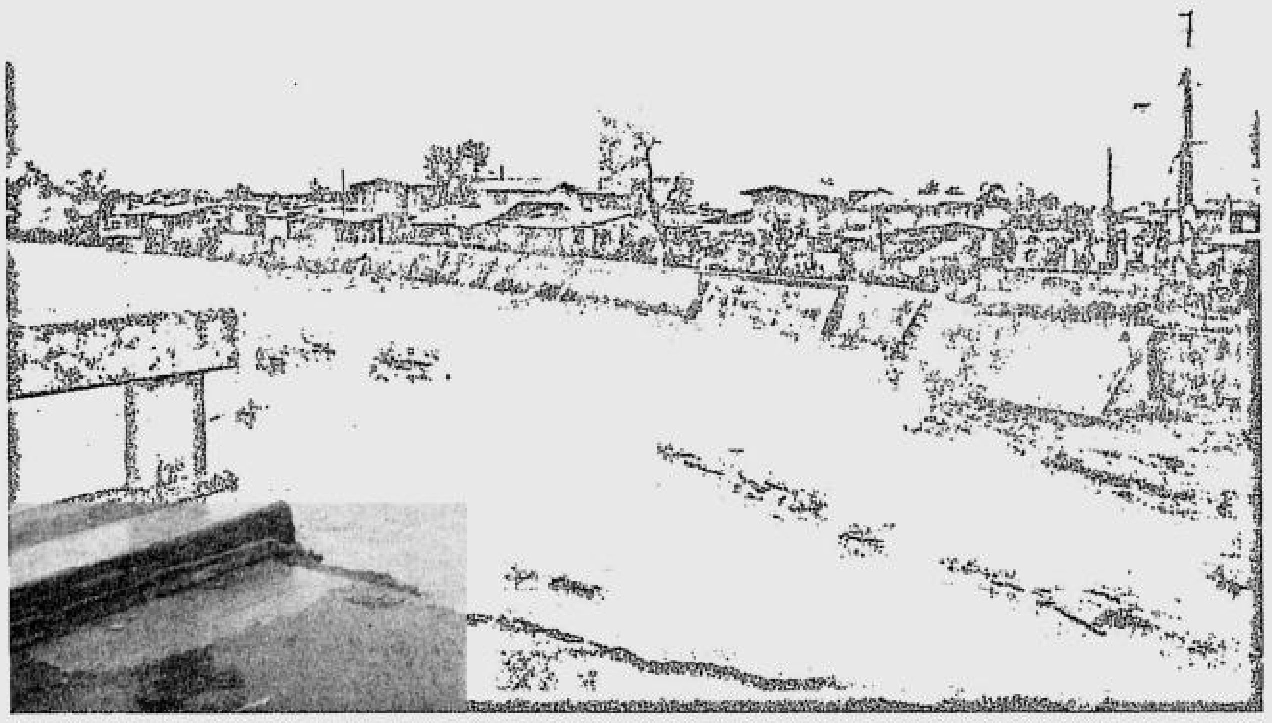
Worst over

The hotline and Web server of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration yesterday bogged down due to the power outage.

The hotline 433-ULAN, which the public can access to check the weather, could not be updated due to the power failure. Even the technical person in charge of the hotline system failed to make it to work because he was stranded in Pasig.

Pagasa hoisted Signal No. 3 in Bataan and southern Zambales. The signal in Metro Manila was lowered from Signal No. 3 at 11 a.m. to Signal No. 2 at 4 p.m.

Other areas placed under Signal No. 2 were the rest of Zambales, Tarlac, Pampanga, Bulacan, Cavite and Lubao Island. Signal No. 1 was raised over Pangasinan, Nueva Ecija, southern Aurora, northern Quezon, Rizal, Laguna, Batangas and Mindoro.



RAMPAGING waters destroyed a bridge in Barangay Banadero, Calamba Laguna. EGAY MONTANA

Electrocuted, crushed

In Antique province on Panay Island, three people were killed, including a drunk man who fell into a river, a 9-year-old boy and an electrician, said acting Gov. Eduardo Fortaleza.

Lealyn Danez, 15, resident of Villa San Pablo Subdivision in Lucena City, died after she was hit by a falling tree.

In Quezon, three people died. Four were missing in San Francisco, Quezon, and six fishing boats were missing in Perez, also in San Francisco, according to Senior Supt. Victorio Caragan Jr.

In Albay, Cedric Daep, Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council chair, said at least eight people were reported dead in four towns.

One of them was Ricky Chua, 35. "I tried to save him but there was nothing I could do," Levy Base, 34, said of his neighbor in the coastal barangay of Baybay in Legazpi City.

Base sustained wounds from trying to save Chua.

"We were trying to lift the concrete wall that fell on him but other materials, which I didn't see, kept on hitting my body," he said.

Romy Romero, barangay council member of Baybay, said other villagers told him that Chua had already evacuated to a safer place but went back to get some of his things.

Chua, whose body has yet to be found, was among at least 12 reported dead in southern Luzon due to Milenyo.

In Arteche in Eastern Samar, the authorities reported 44 houses destroyed and 56 damaged. There were no reports of casualties.

A girl and an elderly man were crushed to death when the wall of an adjacent abandoned warehouse collapsed on their houses in Muntinlupa, officials said.

In the financial district of Makati, the steel frame of a billboard fell on a bus, a van and a taxi, killing the van driver and injuring the driver of the taxi, police said.

In Calamba City, three factories (Samsung Electronics, Shinsei Electronics and PL Technologies) in Barangay Batino collapsed at around 11 a.m., injuring 50 employees.

Stranded

The Office of Civil Defense reported that as of 8 a.m. yesterday there were 3,029 ship passengers stranded in the Bicol region.

Matnog had 2,130 stranded passengers; Pilar, 376; Tabaco City, 358; Masbate, 61; Bulan, 48; Pioduran, 22; Pasacao, Camarines Sur, 21; Sabang, Camarines Sur, 10 and Virac, 3.

At least 350 passengers bound for Aklan, Iloilo, Mindoro and Romblon provinces were stranded at the Batangas port.

The Camarines Norte national highway, roads in Camarines Sur and the road from Legazpi to Sorsogon were passable as of 3 p.m. yesterday.

However, the road out of Bulan, Sorsogon, was not passable due to fallen trees, electric posts and scattered roofing materials.

In Albay, the Maharlika Highway in the second and third districts was passable to light vehicles only.

The road in Barangay Padang in Legazpi was not passable because it was blocked by boulders and old volcanic debris from Mayon volcano.

The circumferential road from Virac to Pandan in Catanduanes was hardly passable. It was under construction when damaged by the storm.

A minor rock slide blocked a section of the Panabananon road and a minor landslide hit a section in Barihay in Catanduanes.

Evacuation

A total of 833 people was evacuated to eight centers in Calabanga, Camarines Sur. Thirty-six families were evacuated in Pamplona, 50 in Gainza and five in Libmanan.

The PDCC said 20 families from the coastal barangay of Sala in Balete, Batangas, were evacuated to Balete Church.

Initial reports from the Philippine National Red Cross said that 45 families were evacuated in Lipa City, 38 in Tanauan City and 11 in San Juan town.

Highway operator Star Tollway Corp. said billboards and fences had tilted toward the road in Sto. Tomas.

Water overflowed on the Santiago bridge and portions of Kilometer 64 to 61 in Sambat, Tanauan, were flooded. But no vehicular accidents were reported, Star Tollway said.

Many houses were rendered roofless, electricity was cut off and floods threatened the towns of Siniloan, Mabitac, Famy, Sta. Maria and other parts of eastern Laguna.

Airport closed

Debris—from pieces of galvanized iron sheets, tree branches, leaves and even migratory birds—as well as poor visibility forced the five-hour closure of the two runways of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport at the height of Milenyo.

It was the first time in 15 years that the country's premier international airport was closed. In 1991, the Naia was closed for 10 days because of the ash fall brought about by the Mt. Pinatubo eruption.

Yesterday, the Manila International Airport Authority closed the runways to all aircraft at 10:15 a.m. and reopened them at 3 p.m.

The closure affected numerous arriving and departing flights, and stranded hundreds of passengers at the Naia 1, the Centennial Terminal and the Manila Domestic Airport.

Milenyo's strong winds destroyed portions of warehouses beloning to ground handling companies and tore off galvanized roofing sheets of buildings as well as billboard tarpaulins surrounding the airport.

A canopy at one of the airport security checkpoints ended up as a pile of twisted metal. Several trees were uprooted, some of which fell on two vehicles parked at the Centennial Terminal.

The wind also broke a six-glass panel at Gate 17 at the pre-boarding area at Naia 1, knocked down a steel panel at Gate 10, and tore off portions of the gypsum board ceilings at the two gates that were right beside each other.

The Miaa medical office reported that six airline and airport employees sustained cuts and bruises after being hit by flying debris.

It was hot and dimly lit at Naia 1 as its power generators could not provide sufficient electricity to the entire airport facility.

Milenyo was the 13th typhoon to hit the Philippines this year, disaster officials said.

Tropical storms regularly hit the archipelago. In the worst disaster in recent years, more than 5,000 people died in central Leyte island in 1991 in floods triggered by a typhoon.

In 2004, about 1,800 people were killed or went missing in a series of storms. The toll included 480 who were killed when mudslides hit three towns in Quezon.

In November 1995, the 260-kph super typhoon Rosing battered Metro Manila after slicing through central provinces, leaving 936 people dead.

Reports from Joanna Los Baños, Ephraim Aguilar, Job Belen, Juan Escandor, Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Romulo O. Ponte, Marlon Luistro, and Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon; Alcuin Papa and Nikko Dizon in Manila; Reuters and AFP

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March Naia 3 opening eyed

IF PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO HAS her way, the Ninoy Aquino International Airport terminal 3 will be operating by the end of March next year.

This came after President Arroyo ordered the Department of Transportation and Communications to finish the evaluation of the structural integrity of Naia terminal 3 and to open the airport to flights by the end of March 2007.

In a statement, Cabinet Secretary Ricardo Saludo said this was one of the instructions the President made to the DOTC.

Ms Arroyo also instructed the department to fast track the construction of the Kalibo and Laguindingan airports and to inform the Cabinet about "roadblocks" to these projects.

The government has just recently taken over Naia 3 after it paid P3 billion in initial compensation to the builder of the airport, the Philippine International Air Terminals Co., (Piatco), with which it had been engaged in a long legal dispute.

Christine O. Avendaño

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Fr. Teofilo Rustia of Bethesda Healing Ministries will again be the Celebrant. The Rosary and Short Novenas to the Holy Spirit and Holy Guardian Angels will be prayed at 11:45am before the Healing Mass.

Please come with your loved ones and friends to this Special Healing Mass.

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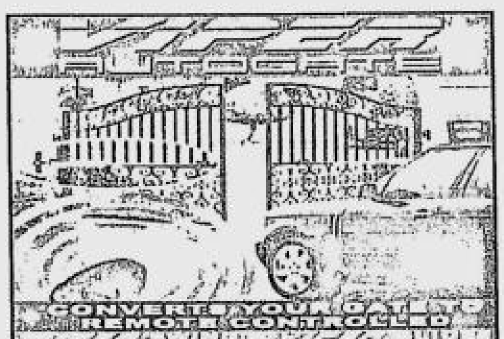

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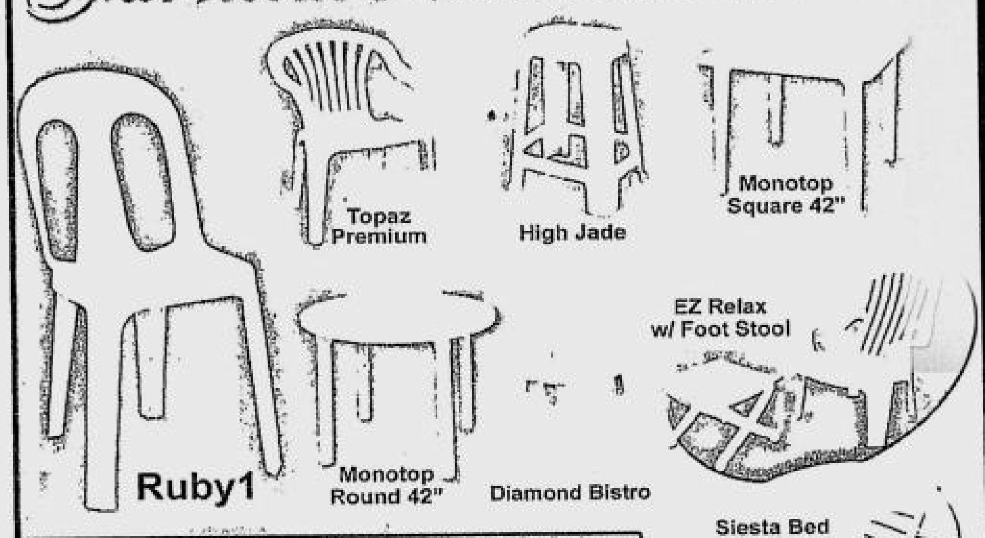

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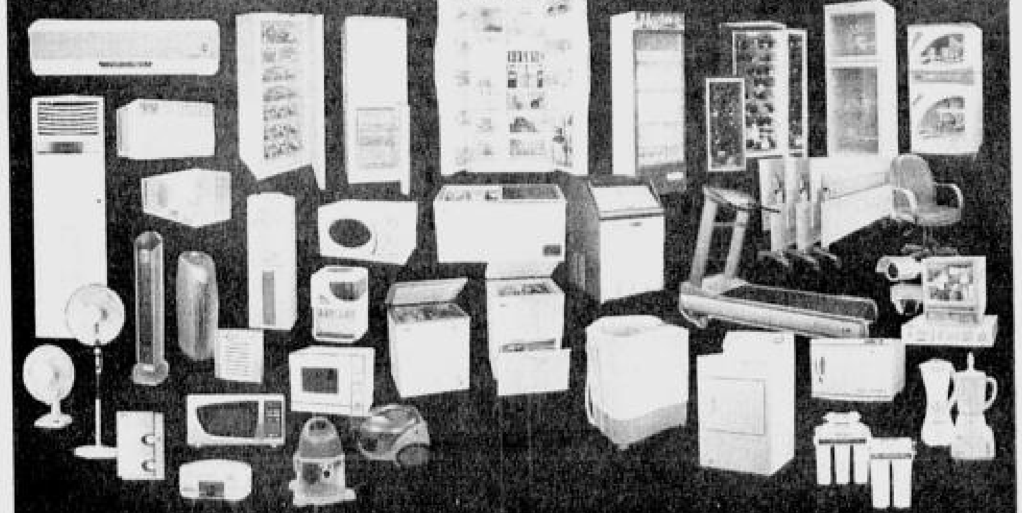

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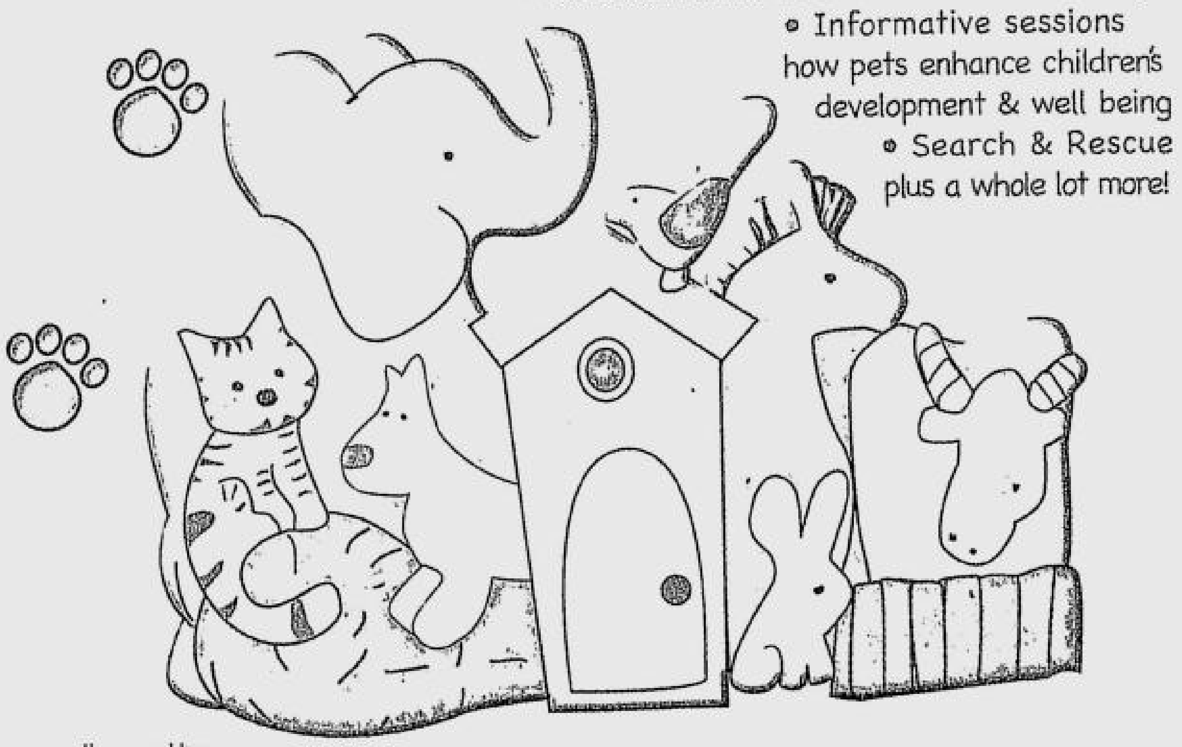

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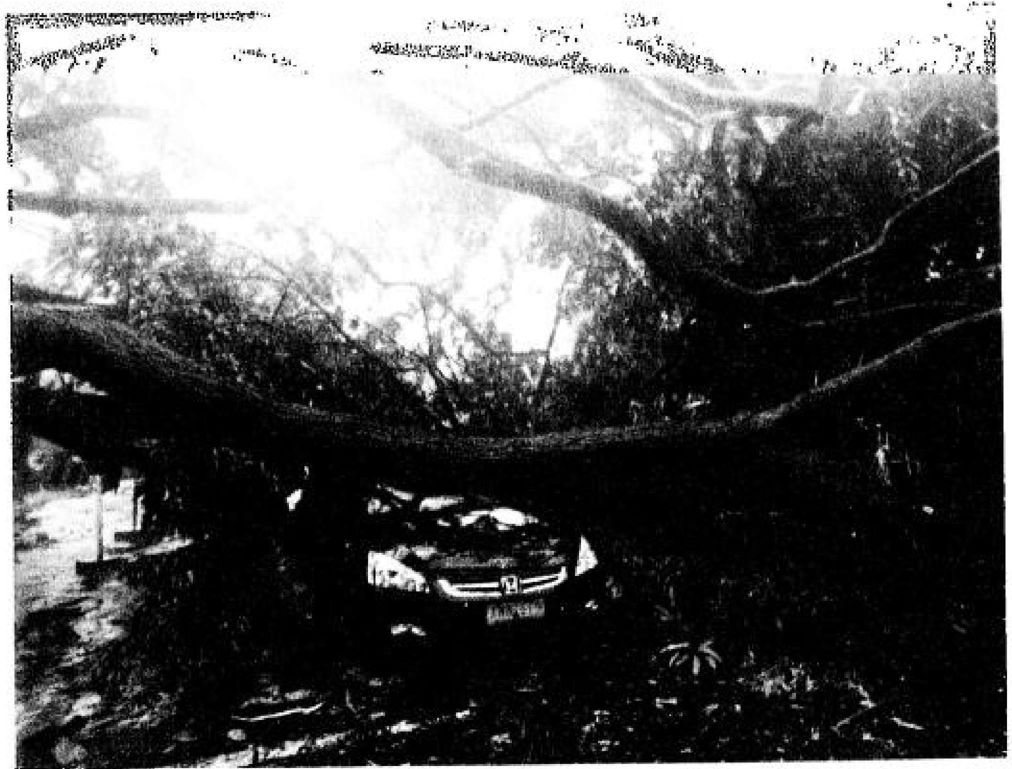
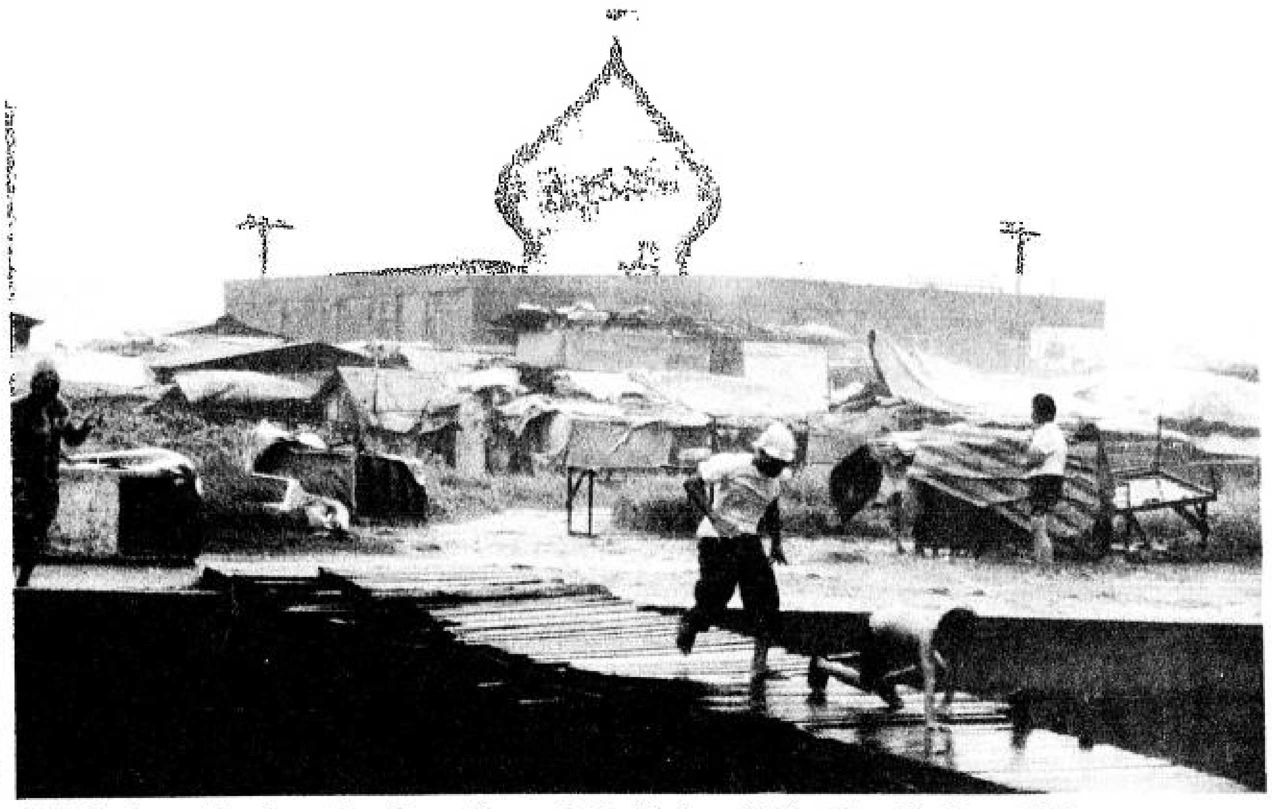
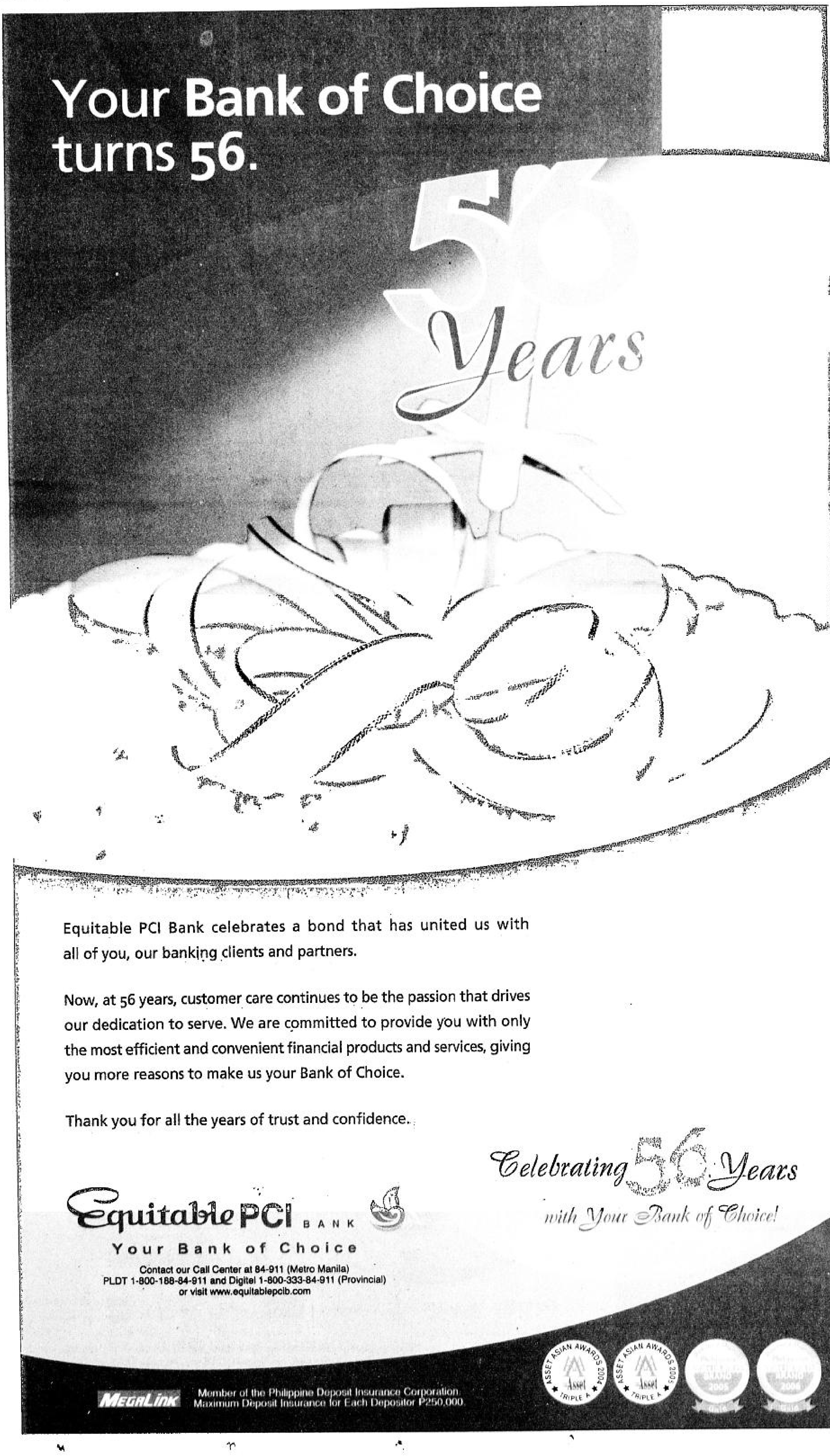


A CAR is pinned by a huge acacia tree uprooted by Milenyo's 130-kph winds on Mckinley Road in Makati City. REM ZAMORA



A MAN rushes to help a boy reduced to crawling on a foot bridge to avoid being blown into the creek below. AP/BULLIT MARQUEZ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POWERFUL winds leave commuters cowering under crushed umbrellas even as they are being lashed by rain in suburban Antipolo. JOAN BONDOC

Bolante claim 'a snow job' —Magsaysay

From page A1

"Pure speculation is a sign of desperation. This is a last-ditch attempt to help win his case by putting in all these strenuous issues. He's doing this to gain leverage. It's a sign of desperation."

Bolante, who has been held in the United States since July after his visa was cancelled, had alleged in a motion he filed with the Wisconsin district court that he was being used as a pawn by the US government to gain the release of the Marines.

To support his claim, Bolante submitted a copy of the Sept. 16 INQUIRER report on the claim of the victim's mother that the head of the government prosecution panel had broached the idea of a settlement—Bolante in exchange for the four US Marines.

Bolante has filed a petition for a writ of habeas corpus. He named US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, US Attorney General Alberto Gonzales and Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff as respondents.

Magsaysay is chair of the Senate agriculture committee that inquired into the alleged mismanagement of the P728-million fertilizer fund in the run-up to the 2004 presidential elections. The panel recommended the filing of charges against Bolante for allegedly masterminding the scam.

Large-scale corruption

"His case will rise or fall on how the federal government looks at his alleged involvement in large-scale corruption," Magsaysay said, pointing out that Bolante's case was proof of the US government's seriousness about enforcing its policy of denying safe haven to corrupt officials.

"This concerns not only the Philippines, but other countries as well. That's why the US has been tough in its no-safe haven policy."

The senator voiced the hope the voluminous documents he had submitted to the embassy, including his committee's report, would be seriously considered by the US court.

Also yesterday, Roque said he would challenge the decision of US Judge George Katsivalis on Sept. 13 to hold closed-door hearings on the Bolante case in Wisconsin.

Roque said the US Supreme Court had ruled that immigration proceedings must be open to the public.

"To dispel suspicion that the two governments are cooking up something in this case, the hearings should be held in public," said Roque.

Roque a hired gun?

Representatives Benasing Macarambon of Lanao del Sur and Edwin Uy of Isabela, in a joint press statement, slammed Roque as an opposition "hired gun out to exploit" the Bolante case for political purposes.

Roque has been releasing details of the Bolante case in Wisconsin to reporters in Manila.

"The Philippine government will not compromise its justice system even for the sake of its diplomatic relations," the lawmakers said.

With reports from Juliet Labog-Javellana and Philip C. Tubeza

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OPINION

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Lost opportunity

EDITORIAL

FROM BANGKOK COMES THE NEWS THAT THE ruling junta has decided to perform a thorough audit of the wealth of deposed prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra. The purpose being to determine how much of it can be attributed to corruption and be seized by the state. Filipinos can't help but wonder, wistfully, how once upon a time, we had hoped to pave the way in terms of governments being able to reclaim what officials squirreled away due to corruption.

The first official act of the Aquino government was to create the Presidential Commission on Good Government. Though it almost immediately got caught up in controversies, for a time it served as a model for other newly restored democracies. The South Koreans, for example, who had been allies of Filipino oppositionists, and who continued to hold Philippine democracy in high regard, sent people to Manila to study the efforts of the PCGG. What they learned, they implemented in turn, with spectacular results. The South Koreans sent two of their former presidents to jail.

And that was within the first decade of democracy's restoration in South Korea. It's been 20 years since the PCGG was established, and the most that has been achieved is some compromises with Marcos cronies, and the recovery of a small percentage of the estimated Marcos billions. What assets have been sequestered have, on the whole, been squandered, allowed to deteriorate, or turned into opportunities for political favoritism, if not outright state-sponsored abuse of perks and privilege.

Our country is littered with gutted and looted properties allegedly owned by the Marcoses or their friends, seized by the state, or interminably stuck in litigation. Companies continue to exist, not to serve as genuine vehicles for economic growth, but instead to provide opportunities for presidents to appoint their supporters and friends to the boards of these firms. These companies have proven to be such a temptation that no administration, since the PCGG was established, has mustered the political will to sell them. Instead, they have contributed to maintaining or even reviving the very things once considered obnoxious about the dictatorship—government's access to multiple TV stations being just one example.

Not even appointing some of the most respected names in government, from Jovito Salonga onwards, to head the PCGG, managed to keep its eye on its mandate. And so, whatever its motivations, the inquiry of the Senate into whether there remains any justification for the continued existence of the PCGG is a valid one.

Were the value of the assets seized, but undisposed—and perhaps even worthless by now—to be calculated in terms of lost financial opportunities for the State, and in terms of the corrosive effect the PCGG's lack of achievements had on public trust in government, the net cost would surely be colossal. But the largest of all is the fact that while every president since Aquino has been accused of massive corruption, none has ended in jail. As for the Marcoses, they never had to pay more than a tiny fraction of the vast sums they are accused of having stolen.

And there lies the tragic lesson: the Thais would junk democracy for increased honesty; Filipinos have had plenty of democracy but precious little honesty—and justice.

No justification

FOREIGN COMMENT

THE TANKS SURROUNDING GOVERNMENT HOUSE AND THE declaration of a state of emergency were the first unmistakable signs of a coup in Bangkok.

Despite their alarm, few Thais were surprised: Thaksin Shinawatra, the headstrong and heavy-handed prime minister, had many enemies, had mishandled the Muslim insurgency in the south and had been politically discredited by holding last April an election that was largely boycotted by the opposition and subsequently annulled.

In forcing him out before the next elections rescheduled for November, the Army took advantage of Thaksin's absence. Plotting had been rife for weeks.

There were two issues that fueled the current unrest in Thailand: allegations of widespread corruption by Thaksin, his family and his cronies; and the Muslim rebellion in the three southernmost provinces that has turned a separatist movement into a full military confrontation, with bloody clashes and the threat of Islamist terrorism.

Thaksin's handling of both has been lamentable. But that was not enough justification for an illegal way to force him from power. The army must return to barracks immediately. *The Times (London)*

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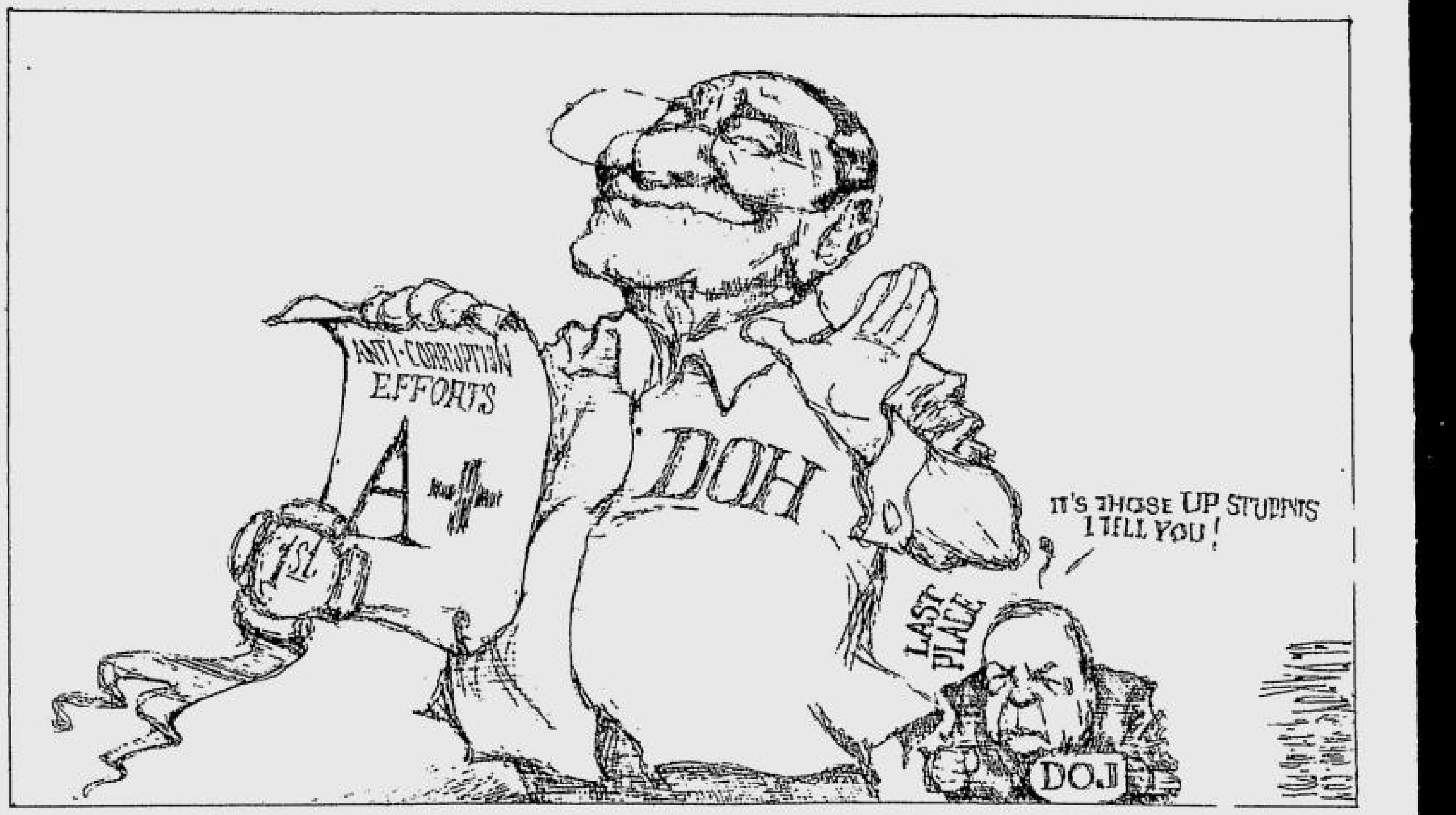


Pro-Cha-cha groups' contempt for rule of law

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THERE ARE MANY REASONS WHY WE should not change the Constitution now, but the two most compelling are: (1) the motives of the proponents and (2) the total lack of respect of the proponents for the rule of law.

The motives of the mastermind are selfish, intended to make him and his allies stay in office longer. The idea of shifting to a parliamentary system where a prime minister is elected by his colleagues started percolating in the mind of Speaker Jose de Venecia after he lost to actor Joseph Estrada, even as his running mate, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, won. His defeat was so humiliating that JDV realized he would never achieve his ambition to be president of his country. The voters don't trust him.

But JDV has been great in getting himself elected Speaker by his colleagues in the House of Representatives. He had done it many times before. So why not become chief executive not through the votes of the larger electorate, but through the votes of his fellow parliamentarians? That's how the idea of shifting to a parliamentary system began to snowball.

The first push for a "people's initiative" to change the Charter was made during the term of JDV's fellow Pangasinense, President Fidel V. Ramos (who also had that idea of staying in power as prime minister), through Pirma. But Pirma was struck down by the Supreme Court which declared that there was no sufficient enabling law to implement the constitutional provision on people's initiative.

But never say die. JDV was able to convince GMA that a change in our Constitution and system of government are her sure-fire weapons against those wanting to kick her out of Malacañang. GMA is willing to clutch at anything just to avoid the ignominy of being ousted as President. So Charter change is going to be.

The two use the same strategy in getting their way: the carrot-and-the-stick approach for those who would join the bandwagon, and punishment for those who won't. Congressmen and local government executives were lured with term extensions, no term limits, longer terms and the elimination of the constitutional ban on family dynasties. That is why the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP) and the congressmen are at the forefront of the Cha-cha bandwagon. They all have selfish motives. And even the senators who are against the Cha-Cha at this time are being tempted to go along, on the promise that they will automatically become members of the first Parliament.

The question now is how to go about changing the Constitution. There are three ways: through a Constitutional Convention, through Congress acting as a Constituent Assembly; and through a people's initiative.

The proponents don't want a convention because they cannot control the delegates and therefore its output. They prefer a Con-Ass because the congressmen are easier to handle. But their first choice is the people's initiative because, they think, the common *tao* is even easier to handle.

The people's initiative is a child of the People Power that catapulted Corazon C. Aquino to Malacañang. Aquino then formed a special body to write a new Constitution. The framers wanted the people to retain power and so they crafted the people's initiative provision.

But like the provision giving the people the power to recall elected local officials, the people's initiative is long on intent but short on practicality. It is so easy to trick people into signing on a piece of paper, or to forge other people's signatures, to make dead people sign, etc., etc. Traditional politicians have done the trick many times before, in regular elections. What has been presented by the pro-Cha-cha agents is not a people's initiative but a JDV-GMA initiative.

The Constitution provides a safeguard by requiring Comelec officials to verify the signatures. But how do you go about verifying each and every signature of the millions of voters? And it is so easy to persuade Comelec registrars to certify that the signatures are genuine.

From the Supreme Court justices' line of questioning during the oral arguments on the people's initiative petition, there is doubt as to the authenticity of the signatures, even with the certification of the registrars. For that reasonable doubt alone, the petition should be struck down.

The Charter provides that a people's initiative can amend, but not revise it. Changing the form of government is not a mere amendment but a revision. And here the Cha-cha proponents are showing their contempt for the Constitution by insisting that a people's initiative can revise it.

The administration is hoping that the Filipino's characteristic sense of gratitude will reverse the Court's previous decision on the people's initiative. (Almost all of the Supreme Court's present members were appointed by GMA.) That hope is fading after the oral arguments before the tribunal.

Realizing that the Cha-cha train carrying the people's initiative is about to be derailed, JDV and his congressmen are now pushing for the Con-Ass. And here again the congressmen are showing their contempt for the Constitution and the rule of law. The Constitution says that both houses of Congress, acting as a Con-Ass, can amend or revise the Constitution through a three-fourths vote.

Since the Senate is opposed to a Con-Ass, the House is now bent on doing it alone. It can muster the three-fourths votes from its own members, it said, despite the fact that the Charter means that the Senate and the House should vote separately. On this, the administration is obviously hoping that the Supreme Court will rule in its favor.

Brazil's coldest election

WORLD VIEW

Clóvis Rossi

PAULO RABELLO DE CASTRO, A UNIVERSITY of Chicago-trained economist and one of Brazil's wittiest thinkers, has called the country's October presidential elections a choice between "more of the same" and "the same without more."

Rabello de Castro's irony is apt, for it is difficult to say which candidate represents "more of the same": President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, who is running for reelection and is the favorite according to the polls; or former governor of São Paulo, Geraldo Alckmin, of the PSDB (Brazilian Social Democracy Party, which governed Brazil for eight years before Lula, with Fernando Henrique Cardoso as president). Indeed, the distinction is so difficult that in a recent interview, Cardoso himself said that Lula's Workers' Party (PT) project is the PSDB's project. He added: "Perhaps there is not another one. History does not always produce a new project."

Cardoso is right. Except for barely practical political rhetoric from leaders like Hugo Chávez in Venezuela and Evo Morales in Bolivia, there is nothing new on offer in the world's electoral marketplace that differs very much from what is usually called neo-liberalism or the Washington Consensus. In other words, there is no longer a battle between different projects in any modern country, no left-right confrontation (with their nuances) that might raise voters' emotions. Here, Brazil is no different from the United Kingdom, Spain or Uruguay.

Indeed, Brazil's upcoming election this year is like a soccer match between big teams, where supporters of one candidate and the other are solely distinguished by the colors of their shirts.

According to the sociologist Francisco de Oliveira, the coldness of the electoral landscape is closely related to one reality: the "irrelevance" of politics due to its "financiarisation." In other words, the boundaries of government action have narrowed tremendously in the face of strong financial markets, with their power to destabilize any government act deemed inconvenient. Quite simply, there is no other way of playing the game than by the rules of the financial markets.

Is this lack of emotion about politics, this absence of confrontation between different projects, good or bad? For some analysts, it is good, because it reveals a nation's political maturity. In the case of Brazil, it means that the people are no longer willing to accept or vote for the heterodox political and economic adventures that characterized the 1980s and early 1990s.

The problem is that this assumed maturity, whether real or not, is happening while the basic problems of the country remain unsolved. Indeed, for at least 25 years Brazil has not been able to achieve rapid economic growth. This is a sine qua non in facing and correcting intense and deeply rooted problems, such as redressing the country's poverty, obscene distribution of income, the vast educational shortages, a precarious health system, a devastated infrastructure caused by long years of insufficient investment, and the rest of a long list of other miseries typical of underdevelopment. Rabello de Castro argues that "the country lacks an institutional model or a productive order that comes to terms with fast growth."

Concerning the process of "financiarisation" of politics, there is an interesting fact to take into account: country risk reached its lowest level, since the creation of the index in 1994, on Wednesday Aug. 9, precisely in the sequence of what Brazilian media called "the third wave of attacks" by a criminal group, the PCC (First Command of the Capital), which burned buses, destroyed banking agencies, placed bombs in public buildings (even the headquarters of the Sao Paulo's Public Ministry of State and the police agency in charge of repressing organized crime).

This means that the financial world measures risk according to its own interests. If a country is not slow in paying back its debts and applies those policies considered "healthy" by the markets, bingo, country risk is low. For the general population, particularly the middle class and/or low-resource people, the risks posed by going out into the street may be extremely high, but they do not affect financial estimations.

So why, under these circumstances, is President Lula close to reelection? Simply put: he works on both sides of the counter. Between January 2003 (when his administration began) and June 2006 (latest available data), Lula's administration assigned 530 billion reales (almost $242.7 billion) to repay the holders of government bonds, whereas he devoted 30 billion reales ($13.8 billion) to a program called "Bolsa-Familia" that distributes money directly to poor families.

This does not seem to be the best way to bring about a true redistribution of income, but it has been enough to achieve two objectives: it keeps domestic and foreign investors satisfied. (In the electoral campaign of 2002, both domestic and external investors bet heavily against the Brazilian currency during the electoral campaign in 2002, for fear of Lula, a candidate who seemed to be radical.) This strategy also wins the votes of the poorest segments of society, who make up the majority of Brazil's electorate and receive very little, but see the subsidies as "better than nothing."

Everything indicates that this will be enough for Lula to win reelection. But can this political game be replayed indefinitely? We will start getting an answer from January 2007, when the new (or, most probably) the old president takes office. ***Project Syndicate***

Clóvis Rossi is a columnist at Folha de S. Paulo.

Flaws in Sigaw's 'Pirma' petition

COMMENTARY

Felicito C. Payumo

THE SUPREME COURT HAS BEEN KNOWN TO be very strict in the observance of the substantive and procedural requirements of due process. It was unbending on this rule in Garcia vs Comelec, the first case involving the recall of an elective official.

In July 1993, the majority of the members of the Preparatory Recall Assembly of Bataan (PRAB) constituted themselves to recall the incumbent provincial governor, Enrique T. Garcia. Composed of all the mayors, vice mayors and councilors of the 12 municipalities of Bataan, it had 144 members for a majority of 73. While 74 signatures in its resolution were found genuine, the Supreme Court nullified the resolution. The reason? PRAB failed to send notice to all members of the assembly, especially the political allies of Governor Garcia. Never mind that the Local Government Code provided that 50 percent plus 1 was sufficient to initiate the recall, and that it did not specifically require notifying all its members. The majority argued it had the number, so why bother with the rest? But the high court ruled that "the due process clause of the Constitution requiring notice as an element of fairness is inviolable and should always be considered as part and parcel of every law in case of its silence. To the extent that the other members were not notified of the meeting of the assembly, to that extent is the sovereign voice of the people they represent nullified."

The convenors had to comply and sent notices to all members of the PRAB (via registered mail, telegrams and other means showing proof of delivery) when it reconvened in Sept. 26, 1993 and once more passed a resolution—this time with 87 signatures, 13 more than the original—calling for the recall of Garcia.

Garcia, then filed a Supplemental Petition and Reiteration of Extremely Urgent Motion pressing for their contention that the PRA mode of recall provided in section 70 of RA 7160 was unconstitutional. It was here that the Supreme Court reiterated that "every law enjoys the presumption of validity .... To strike down a law as unconstitutional, there must be a clear and unequivocal showing that what the fundamental law prohibits, the statute permits." A recall election was set. Garcia lost to Gov. Ding Roman. But Garcia had since won in a subsequent gubernatorial election, after Roman completed his three terms.

Given this strict ruling of the high court, we see a fatal flaw in the manner Sigaw ng Bayan secured the 6.3 million signatures. The petition was peddled around for signatures in the barangays, not in signing booths or stations where an election registrar or his representative could be present to witness the signing. How, then, can the more than 1,500 municipal election registrars verify those signatures? Are they all handwriting experts? Had there been signing stations or booths (as in election booths) where teachers could check the voters' ID with their names in the register, perhaps one can argue for a presumption of validity of the process. We do not even have to go into the question of whether the people were coerced or duped. The question is: Are the 6.3 million signatures genuine and verifiable? That is what then Justice Artemio Panganiban asked, even as he dissented in Santiago vs Comelec.

Now, what is the significance of the Garcia case to Sigaw's "Pirma" petition? The Court protected the right of Garcia. He was only one individual, and one local executive. In contrast, Sigaw's "Pirma" seeks the wholesale abolition of the Senate, an institution composed of 24 individuals who are national officials. Don't they deserve the same protection? Can the Court be so cavalier in its treatment of the right of 24 senators?

What is the due process that the senators are entitled to? Section 13 (f) of RA 6735, An Act Providing for a System of Initiative and Referendum requires that "the petition shall be signed before the Election Registrar, or his designated representative, in the presence of the representative of the proponent ... Signature stations may be established in as many places as may be warranted." Was this procedure punctiliously, meticulously and strictly followed?

Aside from the right of the senators, the exercise of people's initiative is laden with greater and far significant implications. It involves not just the removal of an elected official or officials, but the overhaul of our Constitution. Should this exercise not be subjected to an even higher bar of observance of the substantive and procedural requirements of due process? To my mind, this is what the anti-Pirma group should attack. Not the difference between revision and mere amendment where lawyers have ample room to argue. Not the inadequacy of the enabling law which the Supreme Court can reconsider. After all, it has many times decided that "every law enjoys the presumption of validity ... and the presumption rests on the respect due to the wisdom, integrity and the patriotism of the Legislative, by which the law is passed, and by the Chief Executive by whom the law is approved." (Alba vs Evangelista, 100 Phil. 683 [1957])

But this lack of observance of the substantive and procedural requisites is what perhaps, as Fr. Joaquin Bernas, SJ pointed out in his column, Justice Panganiban meant when he stated, "This to my mind is the crucible, the litmus test of a people's initiative…if as claimed by many, these 6 million signatures are fraudulent, then let them be exposed and damned for all history in a signature verification process under our open system of legal advocacy."

Felicito C. Payumo is former chair/administrator of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority.

Dreams and policy

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

MIGRATION CONTINUES TO BE A MAJOR FACtor in shaping the economy and population profile of countries around the world. "Each year, nearly three million migrants move from poor countries to wealthier ones," notes the Population Reference Bureau on the release of its 2006 World Population Data Sheet. "Increasingly, however, more of this migration will occur between developing countries, such as that occurring from Bangladesh to India, or from India, Egypt and Yemen to the Persian Gulf States."

The PRB notes that "as long as high birth rates and poverty continue to place pressure on populations, migrants will see advantages to moving to countries with more resources and greater opportunities. While the sending countries may miss the migrants' contributions, countries such as the United States and the United Kingdom can benefit from migrants with much-needed talent—teachers and health care workers."

PRB President Bill Butz says he expects "migration across borders of developing countries" to increase, while PRB senior demographer Carl Haub says "there are larger demographic differences among the world's countries than ever before," noting how "the demographic, health and economic contrasts among the United States, Japan and Nigeria illustrate the diversity and the differing challenges faced by rich and poor countries."

* * *

AMONG THE latest findings on world population:

- **World population growth will continue. It has reached 6.6 billion in 2006, up from 6 billion in 1999, and is heading toward 8 billion by 2025. Ninety-nine percent of that growth will be in developing countries.**
- **Globally, HIV/AIDS prevalence is lower than previously estimated. But prevalence remains catastrophically high in many countries such as Botswana (24 percent) and Zimbabwe (20 percent).**
- **Too many people still lack access to improved sanitation. Around 2.5 billion people do not have access to improved sanitation. Countries are behind in meeting the targets of the Millennium Development Goal to reduce by one-half, by 2015, the proportion of people without access to sanitation and safe drinking water.**
- **Fertility declines have stalled in some countries. In countries such as Kenya and Ghana, fertility rates have hit plateaus after earlier substantial declines.**
- **US population continues to diversify. The number of foreign-born in the United States has reached an all-time high, even though the percentage of foreign-born is lower than it was in 1910. Clearly, population is linked to so many other factors—migration, basic services, economic and health policy—and I would hope policymakers make use of these latest data to craft long-term policy.**

* * *

MORE than six months after the Ultra tragedy, where 71 people, most of them women, died in a stampede, the "71 Dreams Foundation" has come out with a report on how the families of those 71 fatalities have been helped to move on after the death of their loved ones.

The "71 Dreams Foundation" was set up soon after the Ultra stampede by ABS-CBN, the broadcasting giant that was (and is) behind the show "Wowowee." It was the first anniversary extravaganza of "Wowowee" that had drawn thousands of eager fans who were hoping to be allowed into the stadium and get a chance to win thousands of pesos in a raffle. But even before the show started, as the people were filing in to be admitted, a bottleneck at the entrance caused a stampede that resulted in the deaths of the 71 people and injuries to hundreds more.

While rèsponsibility for the disaster is still being threshed out by the government and the courts, ABS-CBN has started to address the needs of the survivors. The "71 Dreams Foundation," headed by Fr. Tito Caluag, was established soon after to take care of the long-term assistance needs of the families orphaned by the tragedy.

In a report, Father Caluag said the foundation has already talked with all 71 families, and is close to "firming up (their) long term plans." Among the forms of assistance that the families themselves identified as their priorities are educational assistance, employment, rice allowance, housing, medical assistance and livelihood. Caluag also reported that they are working closely with Bayan Microfinance for the livelihood needs of the families that requested for these. Training has begun for these families and, as Caluag said, "we are also starting to identify potential partners who can help in setting up the actual livelihood projects for each of the families."

* * *

CALUAG said that the foundation expects to complete the long-term plans for all the families by the end of next month. But the work of the foundation involves not just addressing the material needs of the 71 families, but also their emotional and psychological well-being. There is, as well, the need to improve the capacity of the foundation's staff to work with families who are still grieving and coping with the loss of a loved one.

The staff of "71 Dreams," said Caluag, "is also due to meet with family therapists and psychologists to process their experiences from working with the families and thus better plan for the formation component of the 71 Dreams program for the 71 families. The staff also wants to learn how to better work with the families with the formation component in mind. After the staff meeting with the family therapists and psychologists, some of the families will be scheduled for sessions. The staff also deemed it necessary to assess, together with the family therapists and psychologists, the needs of the families beyond the material considerations. After this period of assessment, 71 Dreams will more vigorously work out the partnership between the beneficiaries and the benefactors."

The picture window

HIGH BLOOD

Monin Muriera Navarro

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —Ed.

IT MEASURES 4-FEET HIGH BY 7-FEET WIDE and arcs slightly on both sides. It's made of tempered glass with aluminum frame—the picture window in my study. When I lean backward on my chair, ever so carefully so I don't fall over, I can see the top of the pine trees and the sky. On sunny days, the sky is so blue, it's dazzling. On other days, it's dark and foreboding. From one end of the window to the other is a panorama of hills and pine trees dotted with houses of varying sizes and in different shapes and color.

This is my favorite part of the house—my space. I planned every inch of it, every nook. My desk faces the window and is as long. My laptop and printer sit next to each other as they should. Next to the printer is The Black Box—just as crucial as the ones they have on airplanes. I'm talking about My DSL hi-velocity broadband Internet "thingy." There are four green lights on this box and if one of them fails, I can't get on the Internet, can't check my e-mail, can't Yahoo or Google—which leaves me feeling disconnected, like I'm missing out on some cosmic event that could have dire consequences on my life. At the far right side of my desk, framed in red leather, is an 8" x 12" picture of Noee, one of my eight grandchildren, and me taken at the Yard House in Long Beach.

On a small shelf, just below the desk, is my sound system consisting of two speakers, each measuring 2" x 2", connected to a black cone that looks like Darth Vader's helmet—I kid you not. In this case, size really doesn't matter, for this baby can blast sound to the other end of the house. Music comes from my humble iPod Shuffle, a gift from Angel, another one of my eight grandchildren. Hah! I can almost hear you scorn my diminutive white rectangle. Why not get the 80 GB so you can store 20,000 songs? Come on, have you really listened to all 20,000 songs? Mine has 126, and I haven't even gone through half.

I wanted this room to showcase 26 years of my life in the United States. The room is all white. The curtains are navy denim with small white stars printed all over. A striped red and white sofa-bed occupies one corner, and a couple of throw pillows, the same material as the curtains, sit snugly on it. I wanted to hang an aerial photograph or a satellite picture of the United States on the wall but couldn't find one locally, so I ended up putting together two pages of my husband's Rand McNally Motor Carriers' Road Atlas. It shows all the freeway systems in the United States like varicose veins on some old lady's leg. It will have to do for now.

In keeping with my Americana theme, along with the Clancys, Baldaccis and Grishams on my bookshelf are David Herbert Donald's "Lincoln" and David McCullough's "John Adams." So are Nicholas Sparks and, yes, Sandra Brown! Lest I be criticized for my literary shallowness, I do have Steinbeck's "Grapes of Wrath," Bronte's "Wuthering Heights," "The Complete Stories and Poems of Edgar Allan Poe" and William Zinsser's "On Writing Well." The grouping of these books is not accidental; I truly believe the last book is as much a classic as the first three.

Also on my bookshelf are various family pictures and knick-knacks, like a replica of the tallest phallic symbol in the United States, the Washington monument, which I bought in D.C. in 2000; and the Gateway Arch in Saint Louis, Missouri. My husband, who used to drive 16-wheelers all over the United States and has an eye for these things, volunteered the information that there are actually two arches in St. Louis and, seen together, they look like McDonald's.

But I digress—back to my desk, I have two drawers for my files and four for stuff like post-it notes, stapler, scotch tape, scissors and the very necessary staple-remover. A friend, who came to visit and saw me arranging and rearranging things on my desk, asked what I needed an office for—didn't I already retire? Yeah, I retired, but after 26 years at a desk with all these paraphernalia within reach, how can I just go off into the sunset without them? I have to have my post-it notes in case I want to leave messages for my husband, who is also retired. And how can one live without a stapler? There are always things to be stapled—important documents such as the list of our "*utang*" at the *sari-sari* store owned by my sister-in-law, Luming. She really is a sweet lady, but I don't think losing a couple of pages of my "*utang*" will sit well with her.

Now my study is finally complete—everything in its proper place. I'm ready to write *the novel* that is going to make the New York Best-Seller list and make me famous. I flex my fingers, turn on my laptop, the printer, the DSL thingy, my iPod, adjust the volume on my Darth Vader speaker, take out my Oxford Thesaurus from the shelf, and just in case, my Webster's dictionary. Words should start pouring out soon ... meanwhile, I lean over backwards, ever so carefully, and look at the top of the pine trees and the blue sky.

Monin Muriera Navarro, 62, retired in May 2006, after working for 26 years in the United States.

Free enterprise education is unfair

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

THERE'S BEEN MUCH TALK THE LAST FEW MONTHS about the deteriorating state of our educational system. The education department, with its new leadership, has promised reforms. Business tycoons have promised multimillion-peso donations. The President has ordered a retake of the nursing licensing exams, following the leakage scandals.

So, maybe in a few months, all will be well?

I doubt it, and this is because we continue to evade a very basic question: why do we continue to allow a free enterprise ideology to determine our educational policies? By free enterprise here, I mean minimal involvement of the government in terms of investments for state schools, and in the setting of standards and monitoring of the schools.

Competition

We've basically adopted an American model for education, allowing both public and private sectors to operate, with almost a distinct preference for the latter. We presume this has been the model for all countries, but this is isn't the case. Many countries in the world, including capitalist giants like Japan, have an educational system that is dominated by state institutions.

In the Philippines, we've had a few good state universities and colleges but, through the years, they've had to operate on shrinking budgets. Meanwhile, the private sector's been allowed to prosper, operating on the most liberal of policies. Schools can be set up with the barest minimum of standards. Did you know, for example, that all you needed was 1,000 square meters of floor space to set up a tertiary institution? No wonder, we even have colleges now operating out of the third or fourth floor of malls, offering the flavors of the month, from cell phone repairs to caregiving.

The free enterprise ideology in education presumes that we need competition among the institutions to stimulate better quality. But is this really happening? As a case in point, let's look at medical education. It used to be very difficult to set up a medical school but, these days, you find them sprouting everywhere.

Let's look at the results of the last medical board examination. The highest passing rates came from UP (97 percent), Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila (86 percent), University of Santo Tomas (84 percent), Cebu Institute of Medicine (81 percent) and West Visayas State University (79 percent). At the bottom, we had five medical schools, including one state university, that had zero, repeat, zero passing rates. Another 11, including three state universities, had passing rates below 25 percent.

What do those figures suggest? First, the "competition" we have in our educational system has only produced appalling gaps in quality. How could we allow so many medical schools to operate with none of their graduates passing board exams? Second, private schools, despite the high tuition they charge, do not necessarily produce better students. Of the top five medical schools, three are government institutions operating on very low budgets.

Yes, I did notice there were state universities at the bottom, but this points to another aspect of free enterprise education. Precisely because we became so lax with government intervention, enterprising politicians jumped into the fray, pushing their local state university to set up a medical or nursing school just so they could get brownie points with their constituents.

Fairness

All said, free enterprise isn't quite as "free" as its advocates pretend, especially when applied to education. Free enterprise presumes a level playing field, which we do not have, and so we end up with one disaster after another.

Free enterprise education is unfair to the students and the parents who have to sell their last carabao to pay the tuition for substandard education. I'm almost wondering now if I should be using the word "education" since, in many of these schools, students get rote training, like memorizing the answers to test questions to pass the board examinations.

Free enterprise education is unfair to the professions involved. My friends who teach in nursing and medical schools complain how they're getting more and more students with little interest in serving and in health care, or in the whole process of learning. College has become just an inconvenient rite of passage, a passport to get out of the Philippines.

Free enterprise education is unfair to the country because it has deprofessionalized our professions, competencies-wise, ethics-wise. Again, I have friends who operate hospitals and they talk about the difficulties in recruiting competent staff.

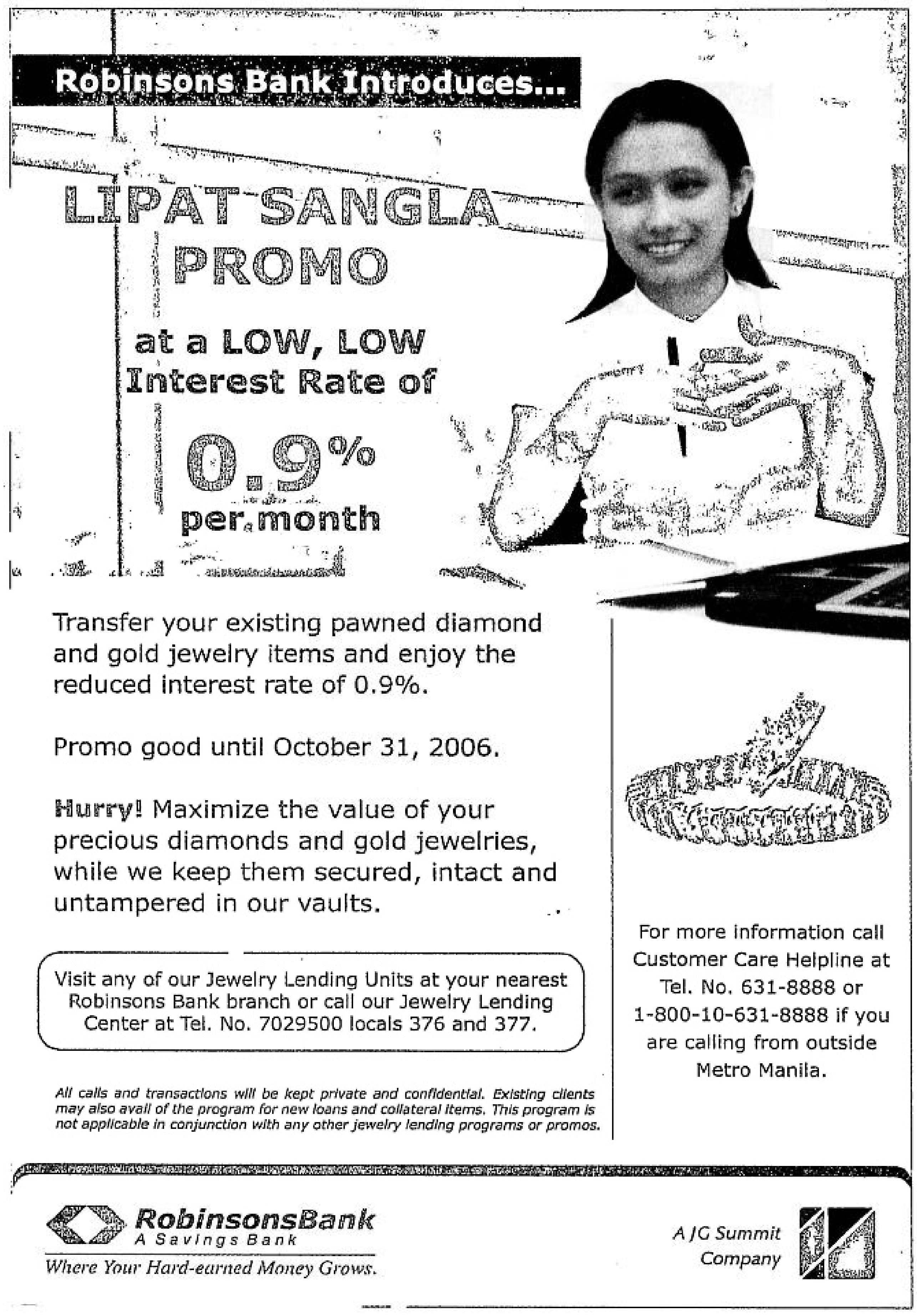
Lives are being put on the line, as more unqualified professionals enter the labor force. That recent oil spill in Guimaras was inevitable. For years now, I've heard horror stories about incompetent seafarers on local ships, but that again is the product of our free enterprise education. We have schools that produce world-class seafarers, and some that are miserable diploma mills. One story I got was that some of the products of these hole-in-the-wall "maritime" institutions can't even swim! We export the good seafarers, and the mediocre ones end up running the local interisland vessels with oil spills—or worse.

Free enterprise education is unfair to future generations of Filipinos because it distorts our priorities. We now respond to market demands rather than long-term needs. Instead of educating more scientists to develop our own agriculture, industry and service sector, we've transformed our schools into mere appendages to an industry that exports Filipinos for other countries' development.

Finally, free enterprise education is unfair in the way it further victimizes the poor. It's the poor who suffer from free enterprise's neglect of the public schools. Their children plod through shoddy public elementary and high schools, and can't pass the examinations for state universities or the better private schools. So if they want to get a college education, they end up in diploma mills, enticed by fancy degree program names with high tuition and a plethora of miscellaneous fees.

Even after graduation, the families will have to scrounge, for review classes, often all for nothing. We should be looking at the results of the teachers' licensing examinations—there are major scandals there as well, with the abysmally low passing rates, less than 30 percent if I remember right for the last round. Something is very wrong with the institutions—mostly state-owned—that are supposed to produce teachers.

Free enterprise education exacerbates the inequities of poverty. Guess who ends up in the hands of under-qualified doctors and nurses? Guess who has to take those interisland vessels run by barely literate seafarers? Guess who ends up teaching in the diploma mills, to train another generation of substandard professionals?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Stop violence against our people's artists

AS ARTISTS AND CULTURAL workers, we are the contemporary mirrors of our society. Our art forms and pieces portray the everyday thoughts and lives of the citizenry. We sing songs, paint portraits, dance and interpret the lamentations and dissatisfaction of the people.

During the Philippine Cultural Summit held at Antipolo City last Sept. 12 to 14, artists and cultural workers from all over the country were shaken by the arrest and detention of 12 members of the Negros-based Teatro Obrero, who were preparing for a rehearsal for the commemoration of the Sept. 12 Escalante Massacre.

In addition to that, there was the arrest and detention of filmmaker/artist Teta Tulay and Bong de Leon of the multi-awarded Southern Tagalog Exposure Independent Media, who were taking pictures and video clips for a fact-finding mission in Quezon province. And there was also the harassment of the secretary generals of Kaboronyogan-Bicol and Sinagbayan-Tacloban. There is definitely a revival of the era of dictatorship.

This turn of events proves that we and our art forms are effective and informative and what we believe in and stand by is right and just. As people's artists, we know for a fact that the ongoing attacks, intimidation, killings and political repression against artists and performers, church people, media people, students, workers and peasants, including the illegally detained Rep. Crispin Beltran of the Anakpawis party list, will go on. But these will only fire up our commitment to take an active role beside the people.

We at Tambisan sa Sining denounce and condemn these acts of suppression and violence on our fundamental rights and freedom of expression. We withstood the brutality and deceit of the Marcos dictatorship; we are ready to stand our ground once again against the highly factionalized, current administration.

The songs of our everyday lives—songs of peace and songs about our struggle for justice—will not yield to tyranny; neither will they be silenced by threats from the armed bullies of the great pretender in Malacañang. Cultural workers in the field of arts and literature will not yield. We, with our people's art, will go on, fight on and live on.

—EMAN GERONIMO,
director for organization,
Tambisan sa Sining,
The_tambisansasining@yahoo.com

Students' side ignored

I WAS ONE OF THOSE WHO saw the angry *Iskolars ng Bayan* throw eggs and mud at AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon. The students were shouting: "Karen at Sherlyn, *palayain*!" and "*Inutang na dugo ng pasistang militar, singilin, pagbayarin*!"

In the light of the growing number of political killings (and how the AFP chief of staff avoided questions about them during the forum), I believe that the students' actions were justified. The eggs symbolized how rotten to the core the Armed Forces of the Philippines and its Commander in Chief are.

But I was very disappointed to read the news report about the incident because it was quite one-sided. It presented Esperon's side, but not that of the students.

Bear in mind that UP students do not act arbitrarily especially on issues of national concern. Therefore the need to hear their side is always imperative.

—GOLDIE LIZA TANGLAO,
gltanglao@up.edu.ph

Why Filipinos prefer to stay in US or how to make them stay in RP

THERE IS SOMETHING MISleading in Michael L. Tan's column "American dreams." (PDI, 9/15/06) In the article, he cited statistics that showed a widening income and wealth gap between America's rich and poor, high rates of poverty compared to other developed countries, and greater difficulty in escaping poverty. Tan went on to say: "Despite all the grim statistics, the United States will continue to be the land of milk and honey for Filipinos mainly because we have been so Americanized."

Granted that the statistics are true when measured against the entire American population, are these statistics applicable to Filipino immigrants in the United States?

Minority-specific research has shown that Filipino immigrants tend to have higher living standards than the American national average. Asian Nation, for example, reports that Filipino immigrants have a median household income of around $65,000 per annum. They tend to be employed in careers that require client interface and where there is a shortage of skills, (i.e., nursing, high-skilled blue-collar jobs), which have made them less affected by job market disruptions.

Furthermore, a decent 43 percent of them have college degrees, a big edge in a society where education is an important variable in determining wages and income mobility. In addition to these indicators, Filipino immigrants and all other US residents enjoy benefits whose costs are beyond the reach of typical white-collar workers in the Philippines (e.g., quality public school education, subsidized health care and financial aid for university studies). Other research projects on Filipinos in the United States have reported similar positive trends.

In sum, a large number of Filipinos perceive the United States as a land of milk and honey because their perceptions have been proven correct, albeit with some exaggeration—not because they have been Americanized. Real-time information about life in America is readily available online in news content, chat rooms and discussion forums, so it is easier for people to arrive at their own impressions without being swayed by photographs and *balikbayan* boxes.

American society may not be as compassionate as the other First World countries that maintain socialist policies, but it remains a country where those who develop the right skills, work hard and play by the rules have a statistically high chance of reaching an upward trajectory for themselves and their children in terms of quality life and personal achievement. Filipino immigrants in the United States and other countries have proven their motivation and ability to do well in this kind of environment.

If we want Filipinos to prefer staying in their home country, then steps should be taken to develop a similar environment where those who are motivated are likely to be rewarded. Creating jobs alone will not change this preference.

—ARTURO A. REYES,
66-06 Booth St.,
Rego Park, NY 11374, USA

Measuring results of interventions

IT WAS HEARTENING TO read former Education Secretary Florencio "Butch" Abad's commentary titled "Creative approach to education reform." (PDI, 9/18/06) Coming from a former education secretary, it was rich in experience and wisdom.

I appreciated most of all the line where he said: "What is important is that we have a way of measuring the results of our interventions and of sharing the evidence of outcome derived from such interventions."

Being a former educator myself—more specifically, when I was a public school supervisor of Pozorrubio District II—I have had the privilege of spearheading intervention activities, most especially in the basic 3 R's—reading, 'riting and 'rithmetic. As a result of that intervention, we raised the district's performance (which was way, way below the national standard) to almost the same level as the national standard.

This goes to show that if we really are determined to raise the standard of education in our country, we can do it. But we need education leaders who are dedicated, committed, knowledgeable and creative, worthy of their position and devoid of partisan, economic and personal interests.

—HERIBERTO A. BAUTISTA,
consultant, Municipality
of Pozorrubio,
Province of Pangasinan

Sure way to make AFP a better force

THIS IS IN REACTION TO the news item "General tells soldiers: Heal fast, avenge Marines' deaths." (PDI, 9/9/06)

In that story, Maj. Gen. Eugenio Cedo, chief of the new Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom) of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, was reported to have told about 40 wounded soldiers at the AFP's Don Basilio Navarro Hospital in Zamboanga City to "heal your wounds, go back to Sulu and avenge their (fellow soldiers) death, fight the Abu Sayyaf."

To this statement, lawyer Jose Manuel Mamauag, Commission on Human Rights regional director for Western Mindanao, is said to have reacted with these words: "A responsible regional military officer like him should not issue such an irresponsible statement .... Soldiers must always abide by the rules of war. Vendetta is a violation of International Humanitarian Law and what Cedo said was an encouragement for soldiers to commit war crimes."

One of the wounded soldiers, Pfc. Russel Panaga of the Marines, was quoted as saying: "Getting killed during war is part of the risk of our job. There's no need to avenge anybody."

Another wounded soldier, Pfc. Arnold Nialla, also of the Marines, said: "We do not seek revenge. We only defend the people."

These Marines are telling it as it should be. There should be no revenge. I have actually heard some Moro rebels, both of the MNLF and MILF, saying practically the same thing.

Our soldiers, by force of the Constitution they have sworn to uphold and defend, should go to war not to seek revenge, but to protect the people and the State and to secure the national territory. The same Constitution also mandates the State to value the dignity of every human being and guarantee respect for human rights. Defense of the people includes defense of their human rights.

It is heartening to note that some of our Marines have taken these constitutional mandates to heart. We hope that this sense of "Honor, Duty, Country" holds true among foot soldiers all the way up to all AFP officials, on to the commander in chief. Let it not be said that "laws are silent in times of war."

Close to the notion of revenge is the matter of reprisals against civilian populations (which are particularly prohibited by the Geneva Conventions), even if these are the mass base of the Abu Sayyaf.

Maybe, there is need for the commander in chief to direct the AFP and—for that matter, the Philippine National Police now deployed for counterinsurgency operations—to reaffirm their adherence to international humanitarian law and human rights. If internalized by our soldiers and police, this will make the AFP and PNP a better fighting force.

—SOLIMAN M. SANTOS JR.,
vice chair for NGOs,
Philippine National Red
Cross, IHL National
Committee, 18 Mariposa St.,
Cubao, Quezon City

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2006 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER A17

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MILF keeps mum on Ermita stand on peace talks

A GUERRILLA of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front stands guard inside the MILF camp in Maguindanao. JEOFFREY MAITEM/INQUIRER MINDANAO

SULTAN KUDARAT, Maguindanao—The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) has declined to comment on Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita's statement indicating that the government has rejected the rebel group's demand for a larger area.

During the recent talks in Kuala Lumpur, the MILF said it wanted at least 1,000 villages for inclusion in the future Bangsamoro entity but the government said only about 600 areas could be included.

Mohaqher Iqbal, MILF chief peace negotiator, said the MILF would rather wait for the government's formal response before it comments.

"We will wait for the formal proposal coming from the government. And then that's the time we can officially comment," he said.

Iqbal said any negotiation should take place between the panels in a formal venue and not through the media.

"We will not negotiate on the air," he said.

Jesus Dureza, presidential peace adviser, also declined to comment on Ermita's pronouncement.

Dureza is a member of the government peace negotiating team.

But while willing to negotiate to settle the deadlock on the issue of ancestral domain, the MILF said it has prepared its forces against possible resumption of hostilities.

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, said MILF forces have been told to be on red alert and defend their communities when attacked.

But he said there would be no MILF-initiated attacks.

Ghadzali Jaafar, MILF political affairs chief, said they remain committed to the peace process.

"We are facing right now the most sensitive issue in the peace talks," he said.

Jaafar said the MILF has adopted a "wait and see" attitude in the wake of the failure of negotiators to arrive at an agreement.

"Our next move depends on the government's move," Jaafar said.

Last week, MILF chair Murad Ebrahim warned that the Malaysian-brokered negotiations would collapse unless the government softens on its position.

Muhammad Ameen, head of the MILF's secretariat, said it is really up to the government to find ways to break the impasse.

He said the government could agree to the MILF demand or it could wage another war against the MILF, as it did in 2000 and 2003.

"If the government decides it should go to war instead, then we are ready," Kabalu said.

Iqbal said they were just trying to be ready in case a war breaks out anew.

"The government has done it before. They might take advantage of the situation like what happened in 2000 and 2003. The peace negotiation was going on but then the military decided to attack our position," he said.

But Ermita said the MILF's fear was baseless because the ceasefire was holding.

He said the government would only accept the MILF's idea of a larger territory if the rebel group agrees to the conduct of a plebiscite.

North Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol said the impasse could only be resolved by more talks and not through the use of violence.

"Our experiences have shown us that there is no winner in such a war, only losers," Piñol said in a letter addressed to the government and MILF panels. *Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao*

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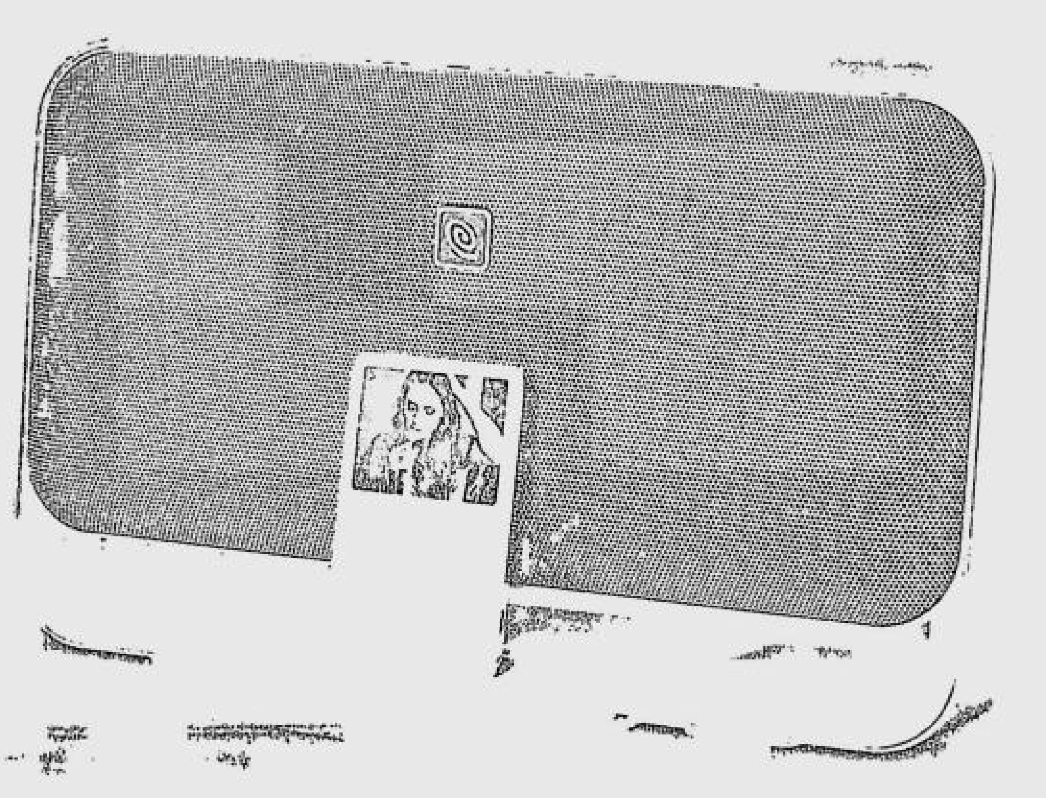

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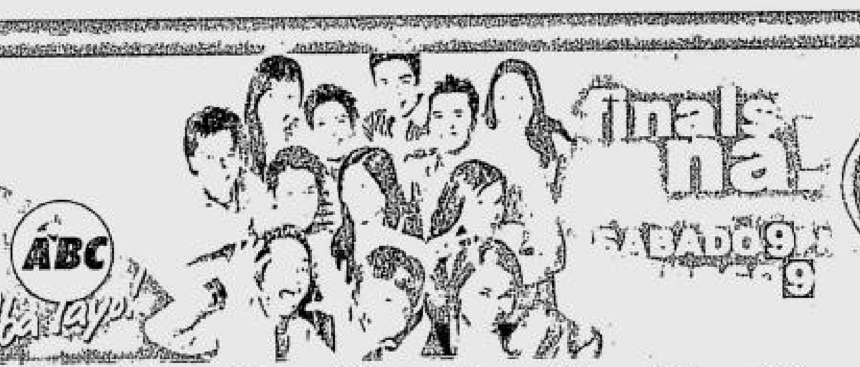
INQUIRER TV GUIDE Friday September 29, 2006



Philippine Idol

ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5	Nickelodeon				Legend Of Shaolin Kung Fu	Mon Colle Night	Sentro Headlines	Lety La Mas Fea		Doble Cara		Philippine Idol	Global Snookers		Real Stories		Big News	TNA	
ABS-CBN 2		Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Yakitate Japan/ Yu-Gi-Oh GX	Calla Lily	Pangako Sa 'Yo	TV Patrol World		Kapamilya Deal Or No Deal	Super Inggo	Bituing Walang Ningning	Pinoy Dream Academy	Maalaala Mo Kaya		Pinoy Dream Academy	Bandila	Mirada De Mujer
AXN		The Net					Ultimate Guinness World Records	Beastmaster (Season 1)		Maximum Exposure (Season 1)		Ultimate Guinness World Records	E Buzz	Black Hawk Down					
Cartoon Network	My Little Pony	All New Popeye Show	I am Weasel	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Winx Club	Xiaolin Showdown	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	Roboboy	Sayonara Samurai Jack/ [illegible]	Pokemon/ Pokemon Johto Journey	Duel/ Justirisers	Shaman King	Courage The Cowardly Dog	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	The Simpsons	Aqua Teen Hunger Force	Gundam Seed	Shaman King
Cinema One		Moral				Yamashita: The Tiger's Treasure				Hari Ng Sablay				Balas Ng Lansangan				[illegible] Kang Naging Akin	
Cinemax				What Ever Happened To Baby Jane?				The School Of Rock (6:10 PM)				Battlestar Galactica Season 2			Paycheck (9:25 PM)				My New Gun (11:20PM)
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia	World News Asia	Your World Today			
Crime/Suspense		The Grid/ The Closer		Law & Order Special Victims Unit		Profiler		Forensic Files	Extreme Evidence	Law & Order		Law & Order Special Victims Unit		Dominick Dunne's Power, Privilege & Justice		Law & Order Criminal Intent		Prison Break	
Discovery Channel	Connect	Engineering Series		Risk Takers		How Do They Do It	Building The Ultimate	Beyond Tomorrow		Rides		American Chopper		How Do They Do It	Building The Ultimate			Crime Night	
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Ad Attack/Un-Talkative Bunny	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	Lilo & Stitch	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Emperor's New School	America's Funniest Home Video	Buzz on Maggie	Totally Spies	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN		2006 [illegible] BCA Champs		X-Games 12 - Carson, US				Uefa Champions League Highlights		LPGA Golf State Farm Classic 2nd rd				Sportscenter Asia	Major League Baseball Thursday				
ETC		Veronica Mars 2		Change of Heart	Elimidate	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	The Tyra Banks Show		Everwood 2		American Dreams 2		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Starting Over		The Maury Povich Show		The Jerry Springer Show		Dr. Phil		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition	The Ellen DeGeneres Show		Wheel Of Fortune	Jeopardy	Trading Spouses		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition
EWTN	The Good Code The Natural Law	Chaplet Of Mercy/ Angelus	The Donut Man	Angel Force	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Backstage	The Gospel Of Life In [illegible]	Defending Life	Life on The Rock Encore		Daily Mass		Holy Land Rosary/ Angelus	Parable	EWTN Bookmark	St. Thomas Aquinas In Today's World	Fr. John Corapi	
Fox News		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live					
GMA 7	Agawin Mo Man Ang Lahat	Now and Forever (3:15 PM)	Ang [illegible] (3:45 PM)		Saiyuki	Dragonball Z	Jewel In The Palace	24 Oras		Captain Barbell (7:10 PM)		Majika		Bakekang (8:50 PM)	Love Story In Harvard	Bubble Gang			Saksi
Hallmark Channel				Judging Amy		Sue Thomas F.B. Eye		McLeod's Daughters		Strong Medicine		Family Law		[illegible] Market For Murder				Regenesis	
HBO		Contact					Lover Boy			Sky Captain And The World Of Tomorrow				13 Going On 30			Suspect Zero (10:55 PM)		
Hero TV	Combatler V	Sunny Pig	Last Exile	Mimo de Pon	Sugar: A Little Snow Fairy	Naruto	Inuyasha	Saiyuki Reload	Full Metal Panic	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	Transformers Armada	Last Exile	Fortune Quest	BBDaman Bakugaiden V	Beyblade G-Revolution	Raijin-Oh	Combatler V	Yu-Gi-Oh GX
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	EBC Earth Files		Japan Video Topics/ [illegible]		EBC Earth Files		Travel Philippines	Japan Video Topics/ [illegible]	EBC Earth Files	IBC News Tonite	A Musical Rendezvous In Manila	
JackTV		Back Track				Sweet	X-Play	Heat		Mad TV		That 70s Show	Everybody Hates Chris	Family Guy	American Dad	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Primetime Glick	The Late Show David Letterman	
Lifestyle Network	Design Remix	30 Minute Meals	Wolfgang Puck	Sweet Dreams	Smart Solutions	Sensible Chic	DIY Jewelry Making	Food Network Special		Boy Meets Grill	Intimate Portrait		My Crazy Life	Martha		Simply Wine With Andrea Immer	The Great Adventure	Iron Chef America	
MTV Philippines		Boiling Points	My Own		MTV Hits					Get Spotted	Diary Of Black Eyed Peas	MTV Diyes		Boiling Points	My Own	MTV News	Rockola	VH1 Fabulous Life	
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYXlog	MYX Firsts	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Club MYX	MYX Versions	Urban MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	MYXlog
National Geographic	Monkey Business	National Geographic Specials		Violent Earth: Tornado		In The Womb		Top 5 Animals Gone Wild		WOW-The Living Edens: Denali, Alaska's Great Wilderness		About Asia		National Geographic Specials		Violent Earth: Ultimate Disaster - Volcano		Extraterrestrial: Blue Moon	
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		Teledyaryo Sports [illegible]			Diyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Siya?	Teledyaryo W/ Ray Langit & Angelique Lazo		GSIS Member's Hour		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Teledyaryo Final Edition				Bantay OCW With Susan K	
Net 25	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	In Focus	Euromaxx	Ang Mga Nagsi-[illegible]		Ang Pagbubuyag		News Beat (Live)		OpenLine Live	Kapatid Sa Hanapbuhay	Ang Mga Nagsi-[illegible]		Ang Tamang Daan		World Report	In Focus	DWTV Journal News	Euromaxx
Nickelodeon	Chalkzone	Hey Arnold!/ As Told By Ginger	SpongeBob SquarePants	Rocket Power/ [illegible] The Legend Of [illegible] Kappa Mikey	Four Eyes	SpongeBob SquarePants/ [illegible]	My Life As A Teenage Robot	All Grown Up/ Danny Phantom	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly Odd Parents	Drake & Josh	Unfabulous	[illegible]/ SpongeBob SquarePants	Naturally Sadie/ The Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants/ All That	As Told By Ginger/ Romeo	The Fairly Odd Parents/ As Told By Ginger	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Noel Juico 16				Ang Tipo Kong [illegible]				[illegible]				Agos				Mega Concert Sa [illegible]
Qtv	Always The Two Of Us	Shaman King	Battle B-Daman	BB Daman Bakugaiden	MMS (My Music Station)		Moms		Phoenix	Irene		Sony I Love You		Ganda Ng Lola Ko		News On Q	Love Life		Irene
RPN 9	TV Shopping				Kapatid Show	RPN Aksyon News		Complete Savages	Jake In Progress	NCIS		CSI: Miami		Without A Trace		Newswatch Now	TV Greats On Friday		
SBN 21								Sony Music Video				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Sheperds Voice		Sony Music Video	
Solar Sports										Sagupaan	GWS 30-2006	Davis Cup Day2 [illegible]				Sportsdesk	NBA Access	Phil. Bowling Tour Leg1 part1	
Sports Plus						Dover 400 Highlights		Nopi Tunervision	RM Boxing	BD Mokokai	Wild Side Acapulco	Golf Today	World Golf: The American Express Champ Day2						
Star Movies		The Object Of My Affection				The Alamo (4:30 PM)				Never Been Kissed (7:10 PM)				The Patriot					Godsend (11:45PM)
Star World	Two And A Half Men	The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		Monk		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Seinfeld	TNA Wrestling						Seinfeld	Walker Texas Ranger
Studio 23								Superman The Animated Series	Justice League Unlimited	Wazzup Wazzup	Nginig	Ghost Whisperer (8:15 PM)		Living With Fran (9:15 PM)	Will & Grace	News Central	Oprah (10:45 PM)		MYXlog

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Ecija gov asks schools to deal with land cases

PALAYAN CITY—NUEVA ECIJA Gov. Tomas Joson III has asked school officials in the province to address the problem in the ownership of lands that were donated as sites of public schools.

Joson, during a recent media forum, said he received appeals for help from teachers and school officials whose school sites did not have the necessary donation papers.

As such, he said, these school sites are now subjects of claims by the heirs of the donors.

"This is a big problem. Although it may look like an unchristian act as [the heirs' claims would] directly affect hundreds of students, they have the right to the claim," he said.

Joson did not give the number of schools facing such problem, but said these are "many."

He urged school officials to secure the donation papers or talk with the heirs and appeal to formalize the donation.

He said the last option for school officials is to raise money to buy the land where the school buildings were built.

Joson said it is now becoming difficult to ask for donations of lots to be used as sites of public elementary or secondary schools.

As a solution, he said, town and city officials should set aside government lands as future school sites.

Joson said he would bring the issue to Education Secretary Jesli Lapus so the secretary could propose ways to solve it.

The governor also said a way to solve the problem is for Congress to include the purchase of school sites in its budget outlay. *Anselmo Roque, Inquirer Central Luzon*

DENR raises alarm over toxic dump found in Quezon village

CANDELARIA, QUEZON—THE DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources and an environmentalist group expressed alarm at the discovery on Tuesday of a dumping site for hazardous chemical wastes in a remote village in this town, some 112 km south of Metro Manila.

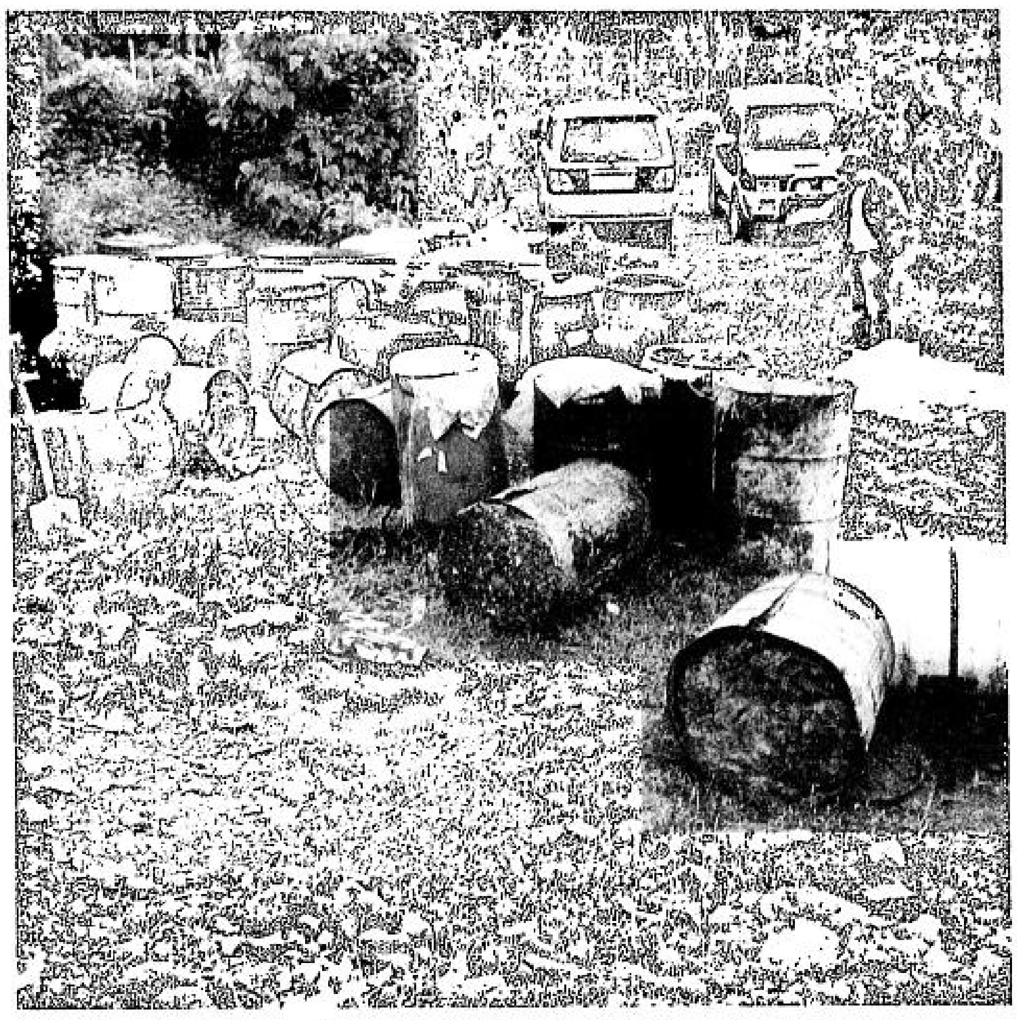
More than 90 plastic and steel drums containing different kinds of chemicals such as sulfuric acid and paint, among many other factory wastes, were found inside the coconut plantation which is only about 75 meters from the village main water pump and reservoir.

"These industrial wastes pose danger to the underground water source of the village. Some of the chemicals are corrosive and it would surely reach the groundwater level. This is a serious criminal offense," said lawyer Asis Perez, executive director of Tanggol Kalikasan, a nationwide environmentalist group.

Perez said the culprits face charges for violation of the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004 for unauthorized or illegal disposal of toxic wastes and hazardous materials.

Some of the containers have labels that read "hazardous waste" and have skull and bone signs, indicating danger to human and the environment.

"This is alarming. This is the first time that we found a dump for hazardous chemical waste here in Quezon," Essie Verzo, chief of the DENR-Environmental Management Bureau, told newsmen while inspecting the dump.



VILLAGE residents and government authorities take a look at some of the drums filled with hazardous factory wastes.
DELFIN MALLARI JR./INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

Caloy Reyes, Candelaria municipal environment and natural resources officer, said some village residents came to his office on Monday and complained of the foul smell emanating from the dumping site.

"I immediately contacted Tanggol Kalikasan and informed them of the presence of the dumping site," he said.

The dumping site has five man-made pits, each measuring two by three meters and at least three meters deep.

At least three of the pits were already filled with different kinds of chemical waste and were already covered.

The two other pits were beginning to be dumped with newly arrived chemicals.

The chemicals were just being poured into the dumping ground and then covered when full.

Obnoxious and irritating stench filled the air.

"We could no longer stomach the smell every time we passed this place," said one villager.

Some of the drums had labels bearing the name Light Industry and Science Park located in Cabuyao, Laguna and Procter and Gamble Philippines Inc.

However, Verzo quickly clarified that the tag does not necessarily mean that the waste products originated from the said firm and industrial park.

"Some waste could not be described as there is no assurance that the labels are proper. The drums may have been reused," he explained.

According to Roderick Genove, son of the landowner where the drums have been dumped, a certain Sonny Ilagan from Barangay Concepcion from the nearby town of Sariaya paid them P6,000 to accommodate the waste in their property.

"We were told that they were harmless and were just like ordinary factory wastes," Genove said.

The DENR and the TK first visited the dumping site Tuesday.

When they returned yesterday morning, they found out that some of the drums were missing.

Genove admitted that Ilagan and his group arrived at the place Tuesday evening and hauled some of the drums.

He revealed to the group that Ilagan had told them that he also had another dumping site of similar waste somewhere in Sariaya.

Village chair Efren Florendo denied knowledge that what were being dumped in the area were chemical wastes.

Verzo said they would immediately conduct laboratory tests on some of the chemicals to determine their composition to help in the investigation of their origin.

"Factories cannot just simply discard and dump their chemical wastes. They are required by law to have their own 'treatment storage and disposal' facility for the safety disposal of their hazardous wastes," he explained.

Perez said it had become the practice among factory owners to just commission the disposal of their chemical waste products to a second party to avoid the strict government procedures.

"But apparently, the practice has now become a serious threat to the people and the environment. The government should immediately address the issue before it creates more damage," he said. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

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Ex-mayor says he's cleared of slay raps

FORMER MAYOR Datu Aminollah Calauto Mangurun of Kapa-i, Lanao del Sur yesterday described as "pure harassment and malicious persecution" a move by the Philippine National Police to revive a murder case of which he has been cleared.

In a statement, Mangurun, scion of the Maranao Lantong royal family, has been found innocent of a multiple murder charge.

Senior State Prosecutor Leo Dacera said there was no evidence to pin Mangurun on the slaying of Army intelligence officer 1Lt. Paulman Sadat Tamano and Pfc. Nabara Ladja Bara who were killed in an ambush staged by unidentified gunmen on Masterson Avenue on Dec. 11, 2005.

Firm threatens to shut down due to guerrillas

DAVAO CITY—A FRUIT-PRODUCING company here warned that it would be forced to shut down its operation because of harassment by New People's Army (NPA) rebels.

Police authorities have confirmed that the Philippine Fresh Fruit Corp. has been rejecting the demands of NPA rebels for revolutionary taxes.

This was the main reason the rebels have been punishing the company, according to Supt. Belflor Causing, information officer of the police in Southern Mindanao.

The latest attack against the company occurred on Sept. 11 when NPA rebels burned its packing plants in Paquibato district here.

A company official, who requested anonymity for security reasons, said they lost millions of pesos in that attack.

"We are still on minimum operation but if the harassment continues, we will be forced to totally close down our operation," the company official said.

He said once the company shuts down its operation, many people benefiting from it would suffer too.

The company is a major producer of export quality banana, pineapple and other fruits. It employs about 1,000 people.

"Two hundred forty workers were directly affected by the harassment," the company official said.

"The bigger issue here is the impact on the whole community," he said.

Causing said the police have already filed charges against NPA rebel Leonardo Pitao, alias commander Parago, who led the Sept. 11 attack on the company.

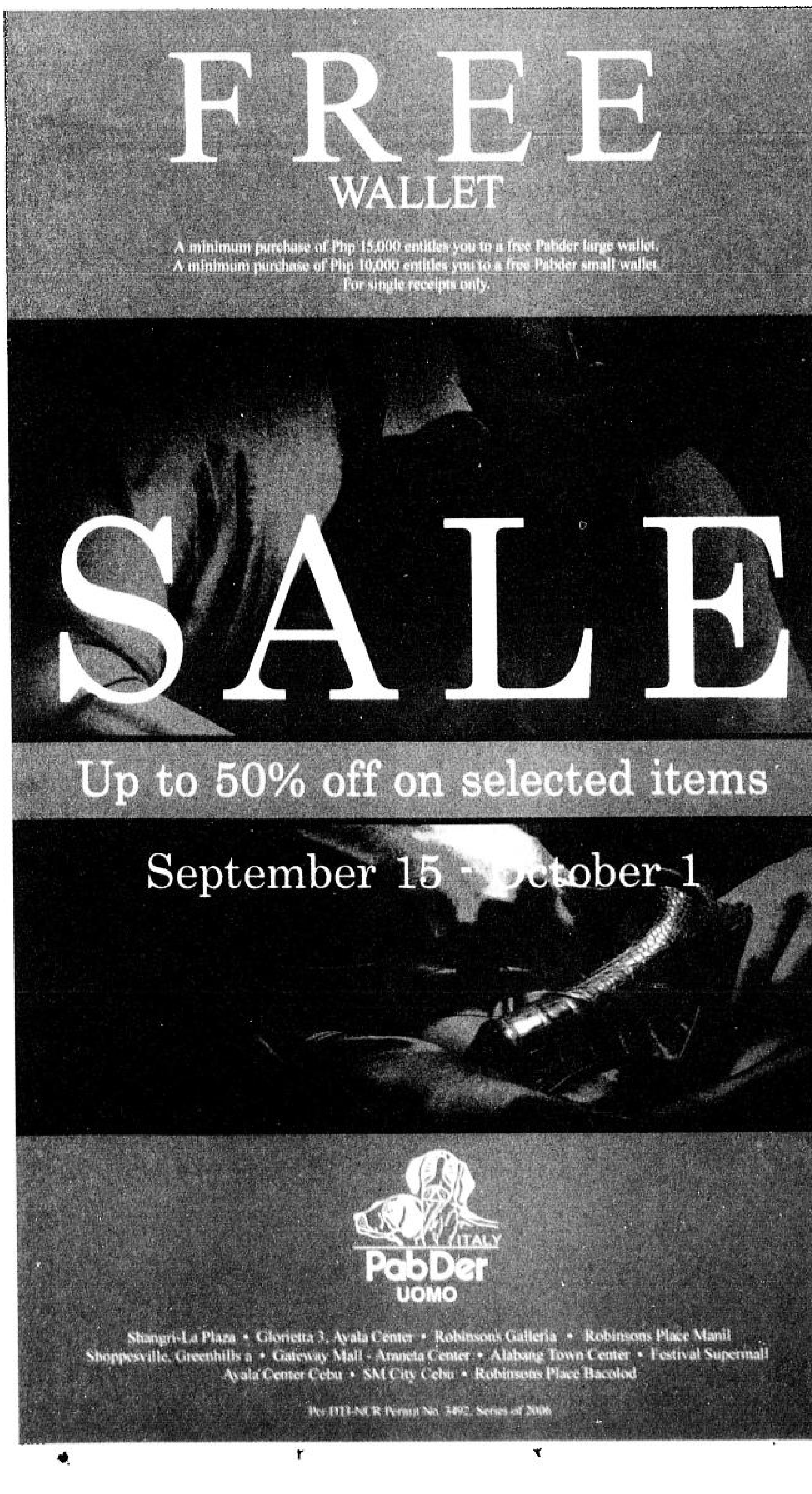
Causing said the police was also doing everything to ensure the safety of companies operating in Paquibato and other areas where the NPA wields some influence.

But Causing also urged the companies to boost their security as the police and the military are not always around to provide them protection.

"Instead of giving in to the so-called taxation, why not use (the money) instead for their security," Causing said.

Several other companies who declined to be identified had reported of being forced to pay revolutionary taxes to communist guerrillas.

The government has declared an all-out war on the guerrillas, which Left organizations said led to a series of killings of leftist activists. *Dennis Jay C. Santos, Inquirer Mindanao*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New solution for treating water brought to Pangasinan

DAGUPAN CITY—THE WORLD Health Organization and the Department of Health introduced here on Wednesday hyposol, a solution used to treat or disinfect water, to prevent water-borne diseases in Pangasinan.

Dr. Jean-Marc Olive, WHO representative to the Philippines, said the introduction of the solution was among the measures introduced after at least nine towns in Pangasinan were hit by an acute gastroenteritis epidemic in 2004, the main cause of which was unsafe drinking water sources.

From June to September in 2004, about 10,000 people from the province were downed by acute gastroenteritis while 55 others, mostly children, died from the disease.

WHO officials said their studies showed that hyposol was the cheapest and easiest way to treat drinking water but it took two years before the product can be launched because of the lack of manufacturers.

A Dagupan-based company, LongLive Pharma, would manufacture and distribute hyposol through the assistance of the DOH, according to Eduardo Janairo, DOH director in the Ilocos.

Deadly water

Janairo said diarrhea, one of the symptoms of acute gastroenteritis, is among the top diseases affecting residents in the region because of unsafe sources of drinking water such as shallow wells.

In Pangasinan, he said floods that hit the province yearly bring pollutants from the mountains to the rivers and to the plains, contaminating water sources.

Janairo said other risk factors were unsafe water collection, handling, storage and unsanitary practices of residents.

He said the Pangasinan provincial government is planning to put up water systems in areas where cases of acute gastroenteritis were recorded to stop the disease.

Gov. Victor Agbayani, he said, has started seeking loans to fund the water systems.

Janairo said the DOH earlier distributed chlorine granules to residents but the measure failed due to the low compliance of households.

Residents, he said, complained of the tedious process of preparation, short shelf life of stock solution (one month) and the strong smell and bad taste of the treated water.

Flavored chlorine

"We even asked manufacturers to formulate pineapple-flavored chlorine granules, but this did not push through," Janairo said.

He said residents would find hyposol convenient to use.

Only five droplets of the solution are needed for a liter of water or 3.5 milliliters to 20 liters of water. The water container should be closed and shaken well, and residents should wait for 30 minutes before using it.

Janairo said a 100-ml bottle of hyposol costs P25 and can disinfect up to 28 20-liter containers.

He said hyposol reduces the level of many disease-causing microorganisms in drinking water and reduces bad taste and odor. It also eliminates slime bacteria, molds and algae that grow in water reservoirs.

Water-borne diseases are common in communities that don't have adequate water systems that could filter water for drinking. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

REM ZAMORA

TESTING THE WATERS
Fishermen from Alitagtag, Batangas catch a fish species called "banak" at the Batangas Bay, shortly before residents of a village near the bay expressed alarm as they saw the water turn white. It turned out that the discoloration came from four drums of caustic soda that spilled from the plant of Mabuhay Vinyl Inc. The leak was from one of the factory's tanks that was being loaded with caustic soda from a foreign vessel.

SACRIFICE FOR A GYM

DPWH assailed for church destruction

BAGUIO CITY—SMARTING FROM criticism for its silence when a public works contractor destroyed an Anglican church to make way for a government gymnasium in July, the town council of Sabangan, Mt. Province, approved a resolution condemning the incident.

Resolution 2006-28 was passed on Aug. 28, upon the prodding of Mayor Jupiter Dominguez, but it was transmitted to the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Philippines only last week.

The document's main argument was Dominguez was not behind the demolition of the St. Peter's Mission Church.

At dawn on July 9, a construction crew demolished the church to make way for the Sabangan gymnasium project financed by the priority development funds of Mt. Province Rep. Victor Dominguez, the mayor's uncle.

A protest rally by church members linked the mayor to the church destruction due to his uncle's involvement in the project.

The council resolution, however, came on the heels of an Aug. 17 court injunction against the Department of Public Works and Highways and contractor Felipe Moises.

Moises, the half brother of Bishop Renato Abibico who handles the Anglican Church's diocese in Kalinga, ordered the demolition.

Judge Joseph Patnaan of the regional trial court in Bontoc, Mt. Province, granted the church a writ of preliminary injunction to protect the Anglicans' right to religious worship.

In a letter, Representative Dominguez told the diocese that the single story wooden building that the construction crew demolished did not "look like a church," and was actually a multipurpose facility donated to the town by the Iglesia Filipinas Independiente (Philippine Independent Church or Aglipayan Church).

But photographs presented to the court showed a tabernacle and scattered communion hosts among the church property destroyed when Moises' men bulldozed aside the structure on July 9 and tore it up on July 12.

The church's demolition constituted "material and substantial invasion" of the church's constitutional right to worship, Patnaan said.

He allowed about 100 Anglicans of Sabangan to continue holding Mass under the gymnasium's roof pending the resolution of the case.

Fr. Brent Alawas, the diocese's development officer, said the Anglican community there is planning to rebuild the church, even if it will stand beneath the gym's arched roof.

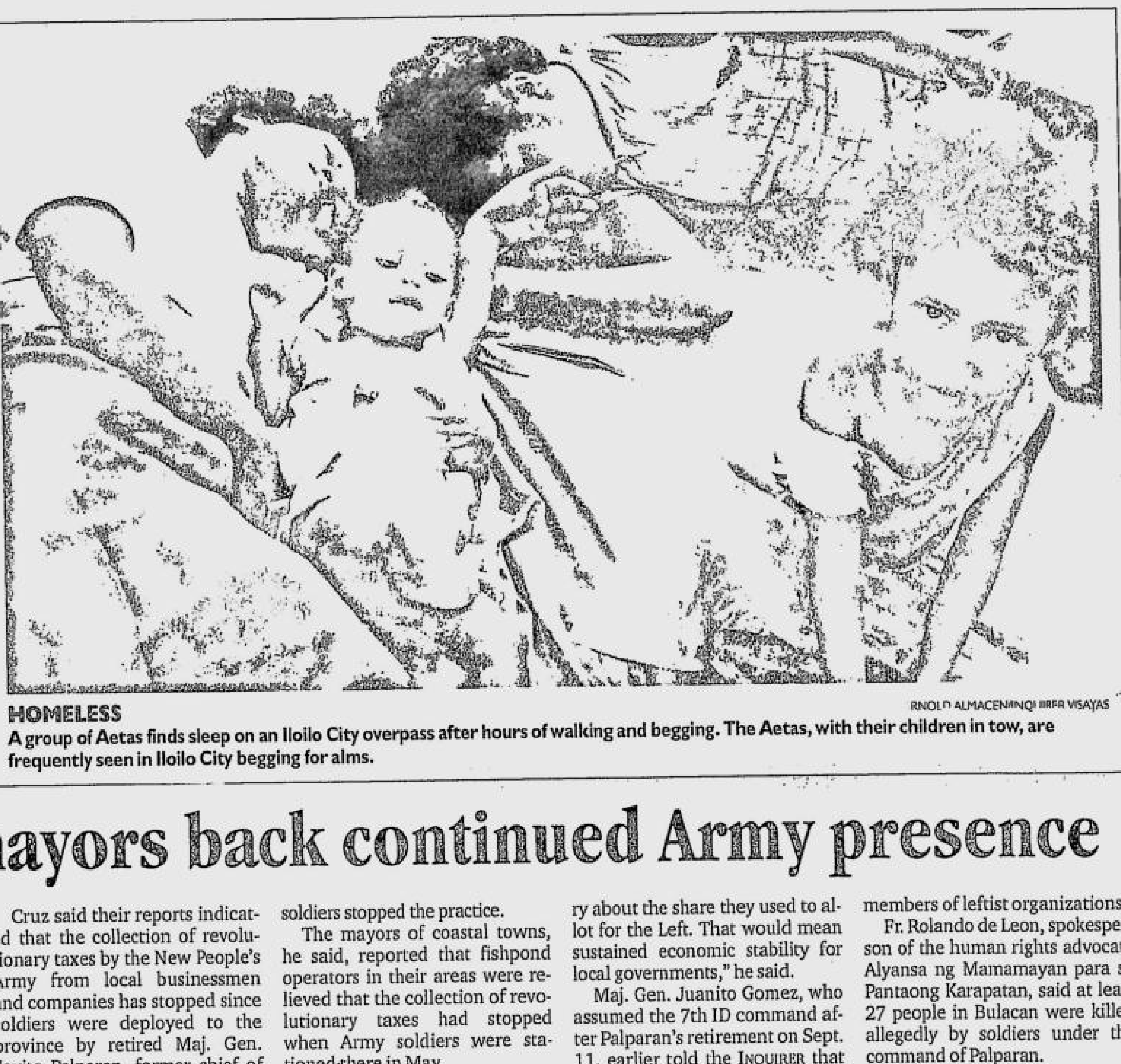
Judge James Kibiten of the Bauko-Sabangan municipal circuit court ruled on May 30 that the church is the lawful owner of lands now expropriated for the gymnasium project.

Leonardo Leyaley, Mt. Province district engineer, has appealed the decision before the Bontoc RTC.

Alawas said the Anglicans are facing a similar land dispute over another property in Mt. Province, leading priests to review the condition of other churches.

He said they found out that the ownership of many church properties in the province are being contested in court.

"Perhaps the economy is this bad... What is clear is that people [in the province] are struggling and they need more land, but churches cannot just give in without any justifiable reason," he said. *Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*



RNOLD ALMACEN/INQUIRER VISAYAS

HOMELESS
A group of Aetas finds sleep on an Iloilo City overpass after hours of walking and begging. The Aetas, with their children in tow, are frequently seen in Iloilo City begging for alms.

Bulacan mayors back continued Army presence

GUIGUINTO, BULACAN—AN OFficial of the Bulacan Mayors' League supported the continued presence of Army troops in the province, saying the military helped stabilize the peace and order situation in areas where communist rebels operated.

Mayor Ambrosio Cruz Jr., the league's president, said the soldiers' presence in several towns in the province also resulted in more economic activities for residents due to an improved peace and order situation.

Cruz said their reports indicated that the collection of revolutionary taxes by the New People's Army from local businessmen and companies has stopped since soldiers were deployed to the province by retired Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, former chief of the Army's 7th Infantry Division.

Cruz said mayors from the upland and coastal towns of Bulacan confirmed that the collection of revolutionary taxes stopped.

He said the officials told him that the mere presence of the Army soldiers stopped the practice.

The mayors of coastal towns, he said, reported that fishpond operators in their areas were relieved that the collection of revolutionary taxes had stopped when Army soldiers were stationed there in May.

Cruz said with the threats gone, local businessmen can now focus on paying taxes to the government.

"Businessmen can now concentrate on paying their taxes to the government. They would not worry about the share they used to allot for the Left. That would mean sustained economic stability for local governments," he said.

Maj. Gen. Juanito Gomez, who assumed the 7th ID command after Palparan's retirement on Sept. 11, earlier told the INQUIRER that 300 additional soldiers have been sent to Bulacan's coastal areas.

Militant groups, however, decried the military's presence in the province, blaming soldiers for cases of human rights abuses and attacks on militant groups and members of leftist organizations.

Fr. Rolando de Leon, spokesperson of the human rights advocate Alyansa ng Mamamayan para sa Pantaong Karapatan, said at least 27 people in Bulacan were killed allegedly by soldiers under the command of Palparan.

But Palparan, in previous interviews, had denied that he and his men were involved in the murder and disappearances of political activists in Central Luzon. *Carmela Reyes, Inquirer Central Luzon*

Cops nab man suspected in judge's slay

CAMP VICENTE LIM, LAGUNA—Nine months after the killing, operatives of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) arrested another suspect in the murder of Pasay City Judge Henrick Gingoyon in Bacoor, Cavite, a police official said.

The arrested suspect, Alberto Pangandoyon, 31, is a security aide of Bacoor Mayor Jessie Castillo.

Director Jesus Verzosa, CIDG chief, said the suspect was arrested by a team of CIDG men in his house in Green Valley Subdivision, Barangay San Nicolas in Bacoor at about 6:30 a.m. last Friday.

He said the arrest was prompted by an anonymous letter sent to Philippine National Police chief Director General Oscar Calderon.

He said the unnamed letter sender claimed that the motorcycle used in the killing of Gingoyon was owned by Pangandoyon and that it was often seen parked at his house.

Verzosa said he immediately formed a team to look into the allegations and put Pangandoyon under surveillance.

After a few days, the CIDG operatives were able to confirm that the suspect had been keeping several firearms in his house.

"So, we quickly applied for a search warrant from a court. During the raid, we were able to recover several firearms from his possession," Verzosa told the INQUIRER in a mobile phone interview.

Among those recovered from the suspect's residence were a .45-cal. pistol, a .38-cal. pistol and a 12-gauge shotgun. *Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

A BIKER braves a flooded Manila street (above) as Typhoon Milenyo roars into the capital on Thursday, emptying streets of vehicles so that commuters were forced to walk in flood waters (right).

PHOTOS BY AP, REUTERS

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REUTERS

RE M. LAMUNA

MILENYO'S fury: Heavy rains turn roads into rivers stranding commuters and stalling cars, while gusts render umbrellas moot (top and above).

Study links …

From page A1

607 female twins aged 25-79 from the United Kingdom were compared with the women's lifetime sporting achievements.

The findings, published in the British Journal of Sports Medicine, found that women with ring fingers longer than their index fingers had performed better at running and associated running sports, such as soccer and tennis.

In women, the ring finger is commonly shorter or the same length as the index finger. In men, the ring finger is generally longer.

The report said detection of sporting potential by examining the ratio between the index and ring fingers "could help identify talented individuals at a pre-competitive stage."

The reasons for the findings were unclear, according to one of the report's authors, professor Tim Spector from the Twins Research Unit at King's College.

Spector said he was originally skeptical about the link between the finger's length to sporting ability.

"Previous studies have suggested the change in finger length was due to changes in testosterone levels in the womb," he said.

Inherited

But Spector said the research team had found in a separate study of twins that finger length was largely inherited, possibly explaining why sporting parents often have sporting children.

"We found that finger length was 70 percent heritable with little influence of the womb environment," Spector said.

"This suggests that genes are the main factor and that finger length is a marker of your genes."

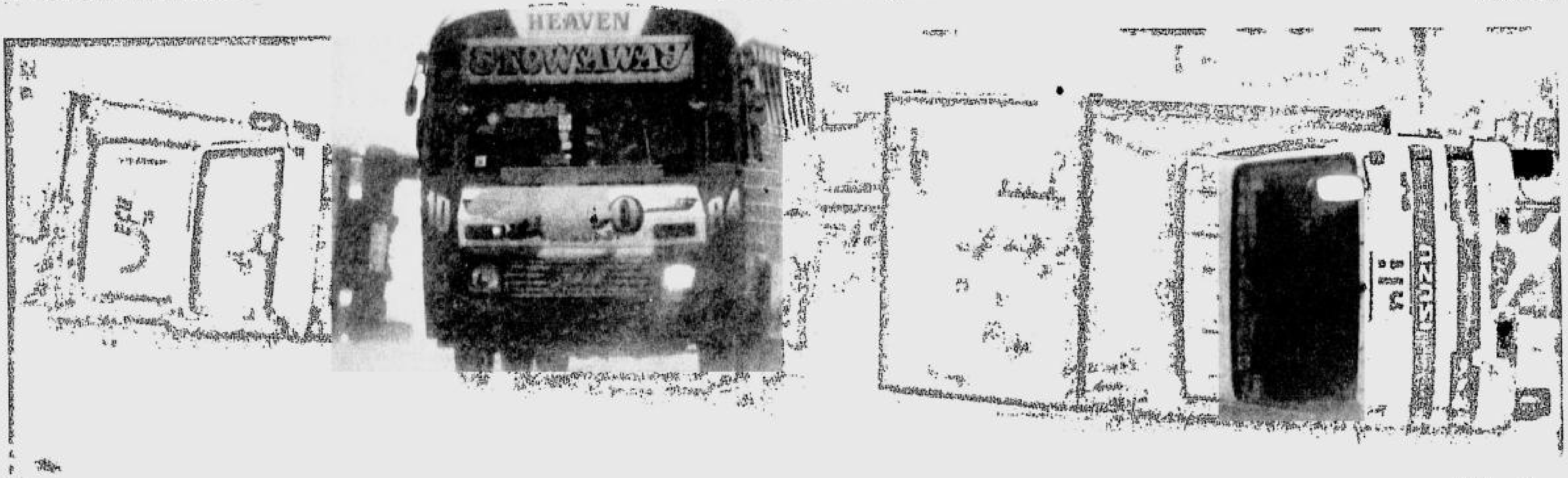
Spector said no specific candidate genes had been identified for the link and that multiple genes were probably responsible.

Previous studies looking at the link between finger length and sporting ability have mainly focused on men.

A study published in 2001 of 304 English professional soccer players found they had a significantly larger ring-to-index-finger ratio than a control group of 533 other men.

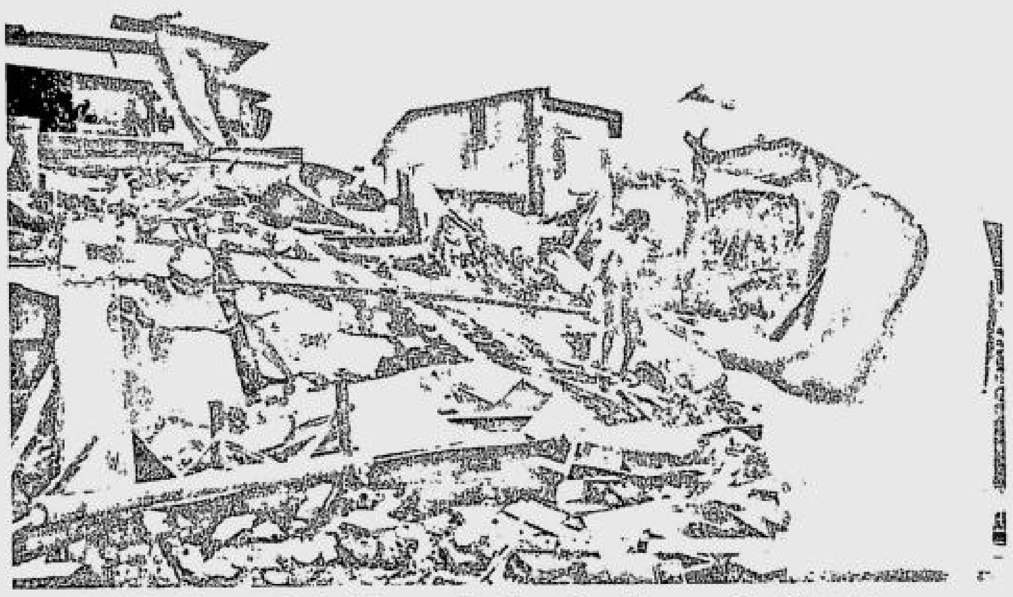
Other studies in men have shown the ratio of the ring finger to the index finger can be associated with varied traits such as sexuality, musical ability and vulnerability to certain diseases.

Reuters



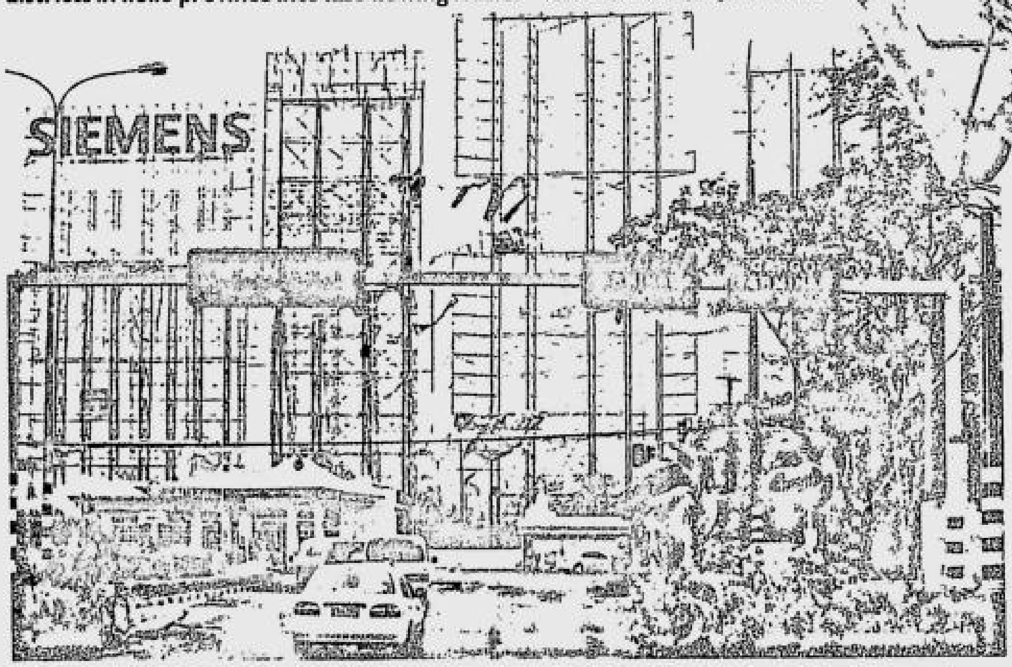
SKID ROW. A passenger bus makes its way between two delivery vans overturned by Typhoon "Milenyo's" 130-km winds Thursday. Heavy flooding brought the metropolis to a virtual standstill. AP/PAT ROQUE

Strongest typhoon in 11 years batters Metro



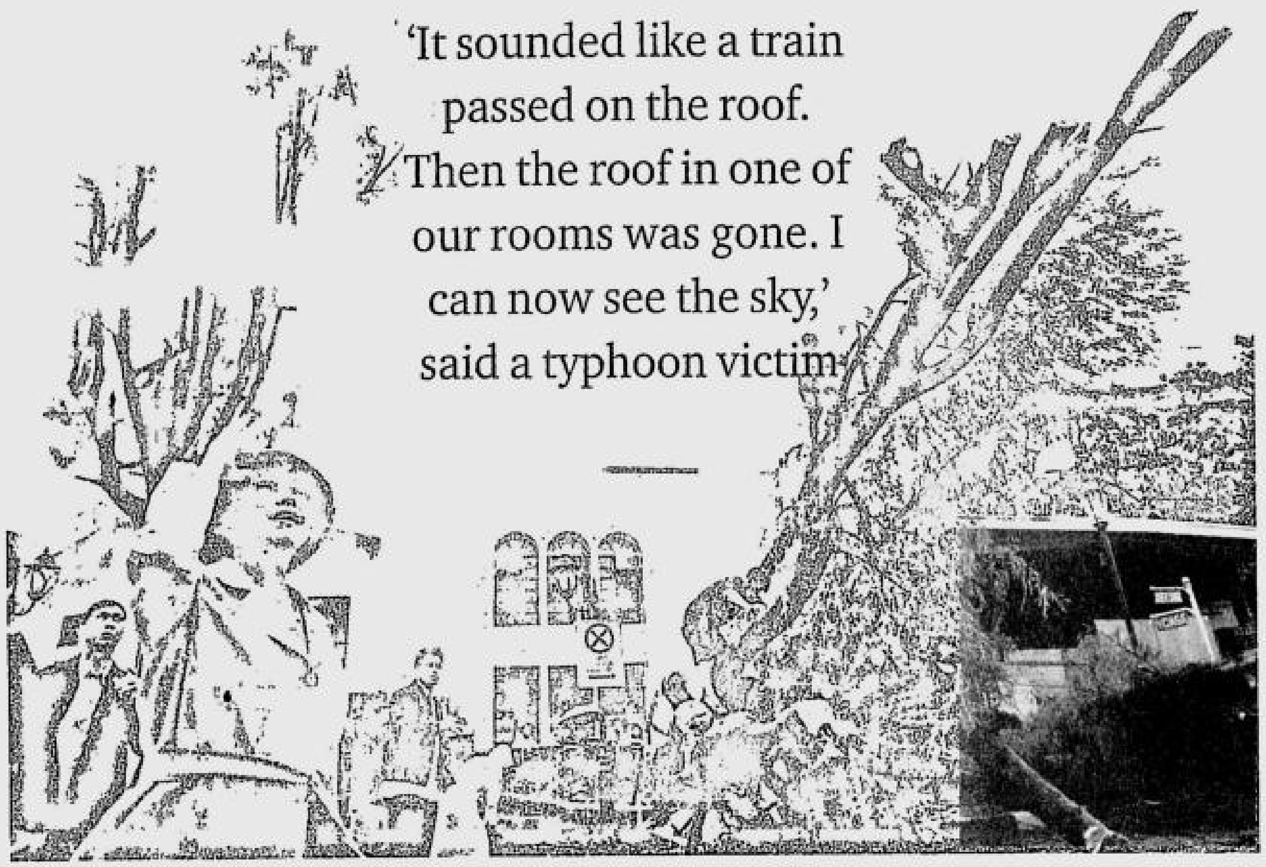
DEATH WALL. Two people died after a wall collapsed on a house on Rizal Street in Muntinlupa City. Debris scattered onto the streets. RODEL ROTONI

BIKERS RULE. Flash floods turned downtown streets in the La Paz and Jaro districts in Iloilo province into fast-flowing rivers. ARNOLD ALMACEN / INQUIRER VISAYAS

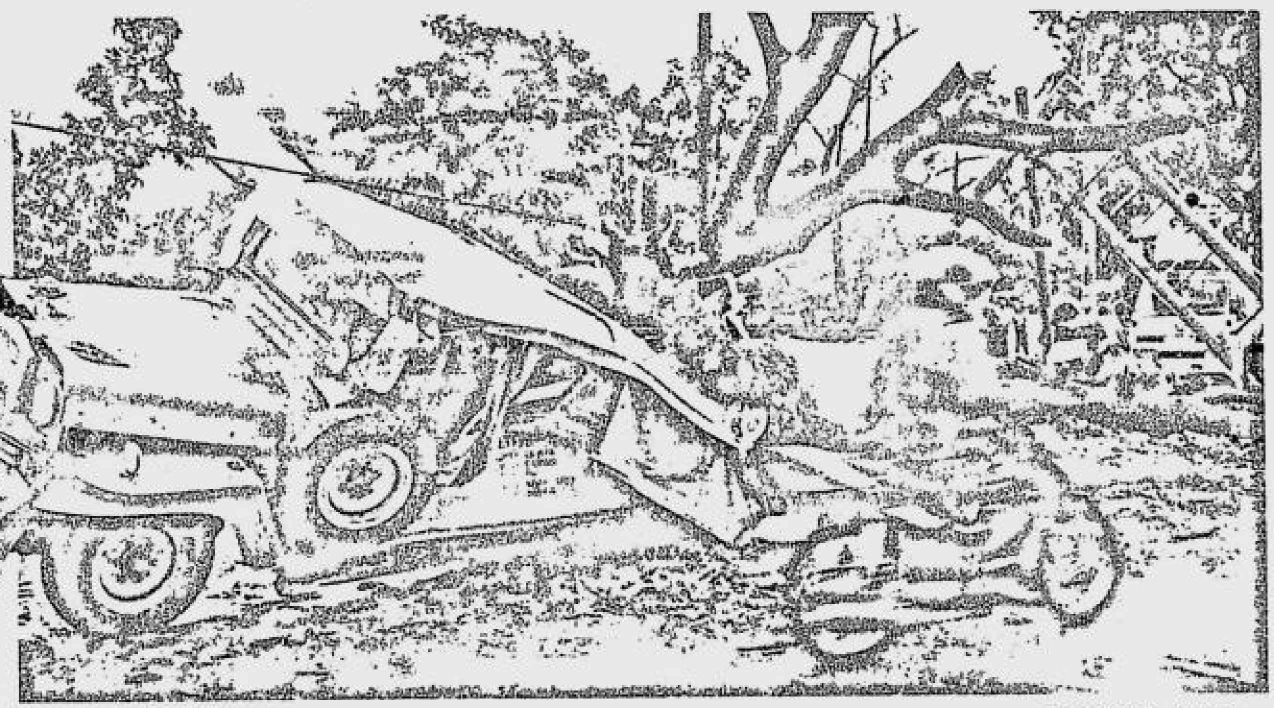


EMPTY TRUSSES. Gone with the wind were the colorful and flashy advertising billboards along Airport Road in Parañaque. JESS YUSON

> 'It sounded like a train passed on the roof. Then the roof in one of our rooms was gone. I can now see the sky,' said a typhoon victim.

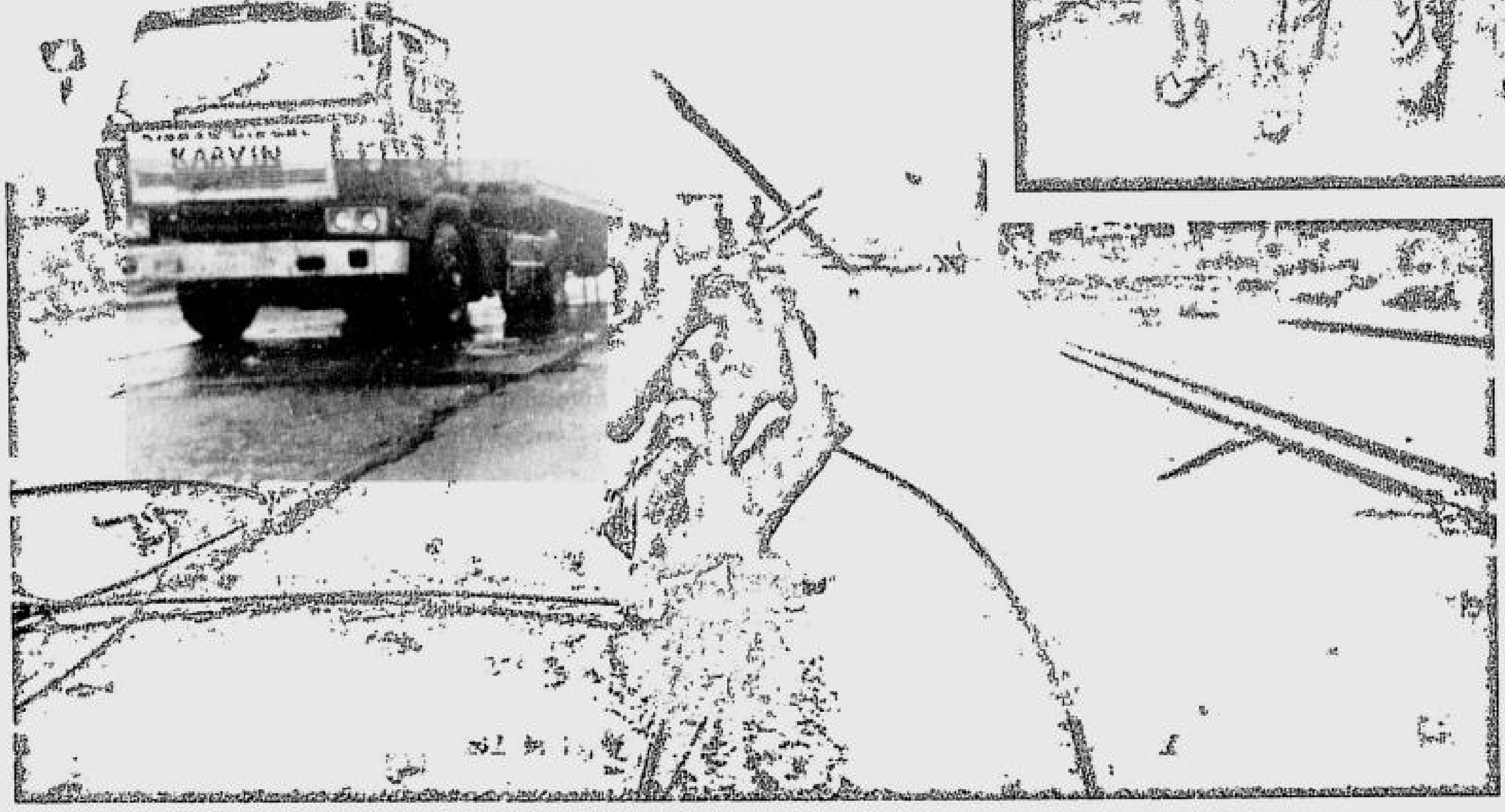


PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo waits for a tree that fell across J.P. Laurel Street outside Malacañang to be cleared. The tree blocked the convoy of vehicles that brought her back from the Clark economic zone in Pampanga. LYN RILLON

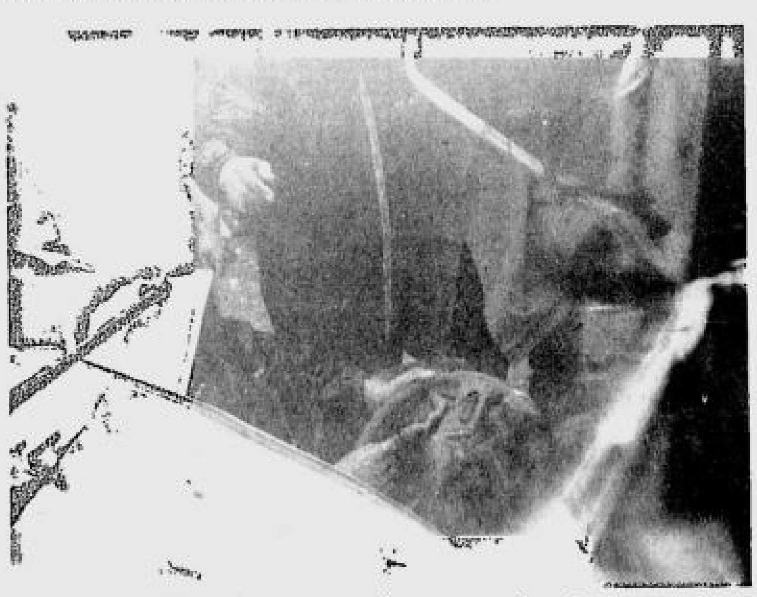


CRUSHED. A tree flattened a jeep parked along the national highway in Muntinlupa City. Flying debris broke the windows of many other vehicles that braved the typhoon's wrath. RODEL ROTONI

RUSH TO SAFETY. Three women run for cover from Milenyo's lashing winds and rain. Behind them, a less lucky driver's truck lies on its side along Pioneer Street, Mandaluyong. RAFFY LERMA



QUICK. Electric posts toppled and wire cables scattered along North Bay Boulevard—a scrap sale opportunity for this waif. EDWIN BACASMAS



MMDA RESCUE workers try to pull out a motorist who was crushed by a falling billboard. But it was too late. REM ZAMORA

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Terror cell tagged most dangerous

THE PHILIPPINES WANTS THE US AND THE United Nations to blacklist a small group of Islamic converts, considered the country's most dangerous militants because of their financial backing and familiarity with Manila and other key cities, an antiterror official said yesterday.

The Philippines doesn't yet have a list of outlawed terror groups, but if it did the Rajah Solaiman Revolutionary Movement would definitely appear on it, said Ric Blancaflor, director of the government's Anti-Terrorism Task Force, adding that Manila will cooperate with any governments that plan to ban the group.

The movement, believed to have about 30 members, has been linked to a number of terrorist attacks in the Philippines, including a February 2004 bombing that gutted a ferry, killing 116 people. It has been hurt by the arrests of its leader and other members but could still plot attacks, Blancaflor said.

The group has collaborated with the more well-known Abu Sayyaf, based on southern Jolo island, and Jemaah Islamiyah, a regional network allied with al-Qaida, in staging attacks and organizing terrorist training in the southern Mindanao region. It also has links with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, a large group fighting for self-rule in the south, Blancaflor said.

"This is the most dangerous group facing the Philippines," he told a two-day Manila conference on terrorist threats facing businesses. "It is not the Abu Sayyaf, not the JI, not the MILF."

Mindanao-based Muslim guerrillas are easily spotted in the country's predominantly Roman Catholic central and northern regions because of their southern accents and unfamiliarity with places beyond their rural strongholds. But many of the Christian converts to Islam grew up and were educated in Manila and key cities, he said.

Although the Superferry 14 bombing was planned by Jemaah Islamiyah and the Abu Sayyaf, it was a Rajah Solaiman Islamic convert who smuggled the bomb on board concealed in a TV set. Another member of the group was responsible for a bomb that exploded last year in a passenger bus in the capital's Makati financial district, killing four people and wounding more than 100 others, he said.

"What makes them more dangerous than your ordinary terrorists is that they will try to prove that they can do more than the original Islamic militants," he told the forum.

Rohan Gunaratna, head of terrorism research at Singapore's Institute of Defense and Strategic Studies, told reporters without elaborating that the Rajah Solaiman Revolutionary Movement "has significant ties to overseas fund-raising initiatives" by Muslim militants. *AP*

GMA shrugs off NPC plea to certify libel bill as urgent

By Christine O. Avendaño

TAKING ADVANTAGE OF PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's presence at the National Press Club's annual Gridiron Night Wednesday, the head of the club appealed to her to certify as urgent a bill pending in Congress that aims to decriminalize libel.

The President, however, barely touched on the plea in her speech to the club, choosing instead to remind its members to be fair and responsible in their reporting.

Ms Arroyo showed up at the NPC's annual lampoon show, held at the Manila Hotel, for the first time in years. But she stayed only long enough to deliver her speech and left before the show titled "Pinoy Big Problem at the Palace" could begin.

In his speech to the club before Ms Arroyo, NPC president Roy Mabasa urged her to heed the plea of the press to have libel decriminalized, saying this would make the press "unfettered, healthy and vibrant for the good of society and country."

Chilling effect

"The mere filing (of libel cases) has a chilling effect on media people, Madam President," Mabasa said.

And this becomes doubly chilling "after the issuance of warrants of arrest which are so easy to obtain nowadays if the complainant happens to be influential," he said.

President Arroyo's husband, First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, has filed libel cases against more than 40 journalists, including several from the INQUIRER, whom he has accused of maligning him.

"We believe criminal libel is not consistent with a democratic society like ours," the NPC leader said.

Mabasa also raised the club's concern over the spate of killings of media practitioners, the only issue the President addressed in her speech.

She thanked the NPC for supporting the Melo Commission which she created to investigate the spate of killings of journalists and political activists.

The President said she was counting on the press "to help our people become more hopeful of their future."

"I hear you well when you ask me for things that promote the freedom of the press. I hope you can hear me just as well when I ask you to promote the responsibility of the press," Ms Arroyo said.

Second World

The economy, she said, was "showing great signs of health, not only [with] a strong peso, not only [with] the good stock market, but the fact [that] at last our people will be enjoying a per capita income of $1,400 this year."

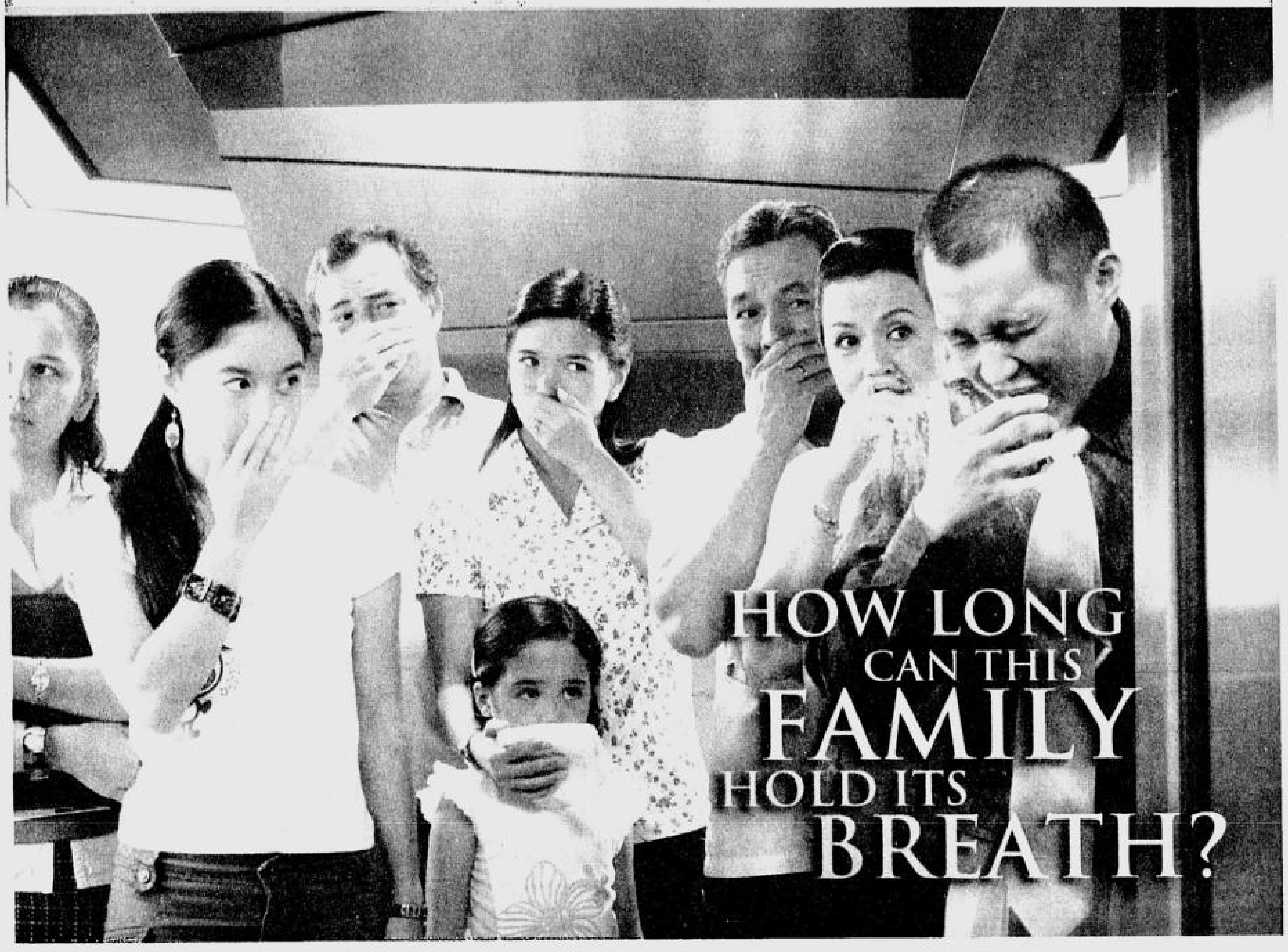
"Right now, we're not Third World anymore," she declared.

Government and private economists predicted last week that per capita income—or the share of every Filipino in the country's wealth as measured by the gross domestic product (GDP)—would hit $1,463 by the end of the year, the highest since the end of World War II.

"At $1,400, we are now Second World, a middle-class country, and we'll be able to achieve, if we continue the trajectory of [a] one-percent decline in the poverty level, we can reach hopefully First World status by the year 2020," she said.

She said this could be achieved with the help not only of the government, business community and the people but the media whom she described as "one of the most powerful and freest in the whole world."

"If the military has the power to topple governments in other countries, in the Philippines that power belongs to the media. You have the power to make or break an economy," Ms Arroyo said.



INFLUENZA. A SINGLE SNEEZE TRAVELING AT A SPEED OF 600 MILES PER HOUR MAY CARRY ABOUT 100,000 INFLUENZA VIRUS CELLS. THESE STUBBORN CELLS CAN STAY ALIVE IN A ROOM FOR AT LEAST 30 MINUTES. EVENTUALLY, THEY COULD ENTER YOUR BODY THROUGH YOUR MOUTH, EYES OR NOSE.

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References:
1. JFK Health World Museum
2. http://www.birdavianflu.com/birdfluairbornetransmission.htm
3. http://www.cdc.gov/flu/keyfacts.htm

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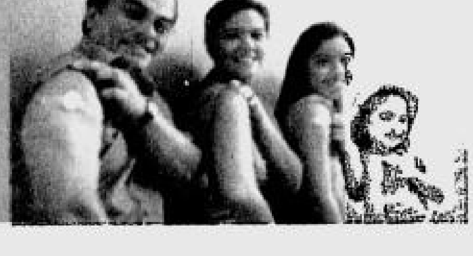

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Editor **Ester G. Dipasupil**

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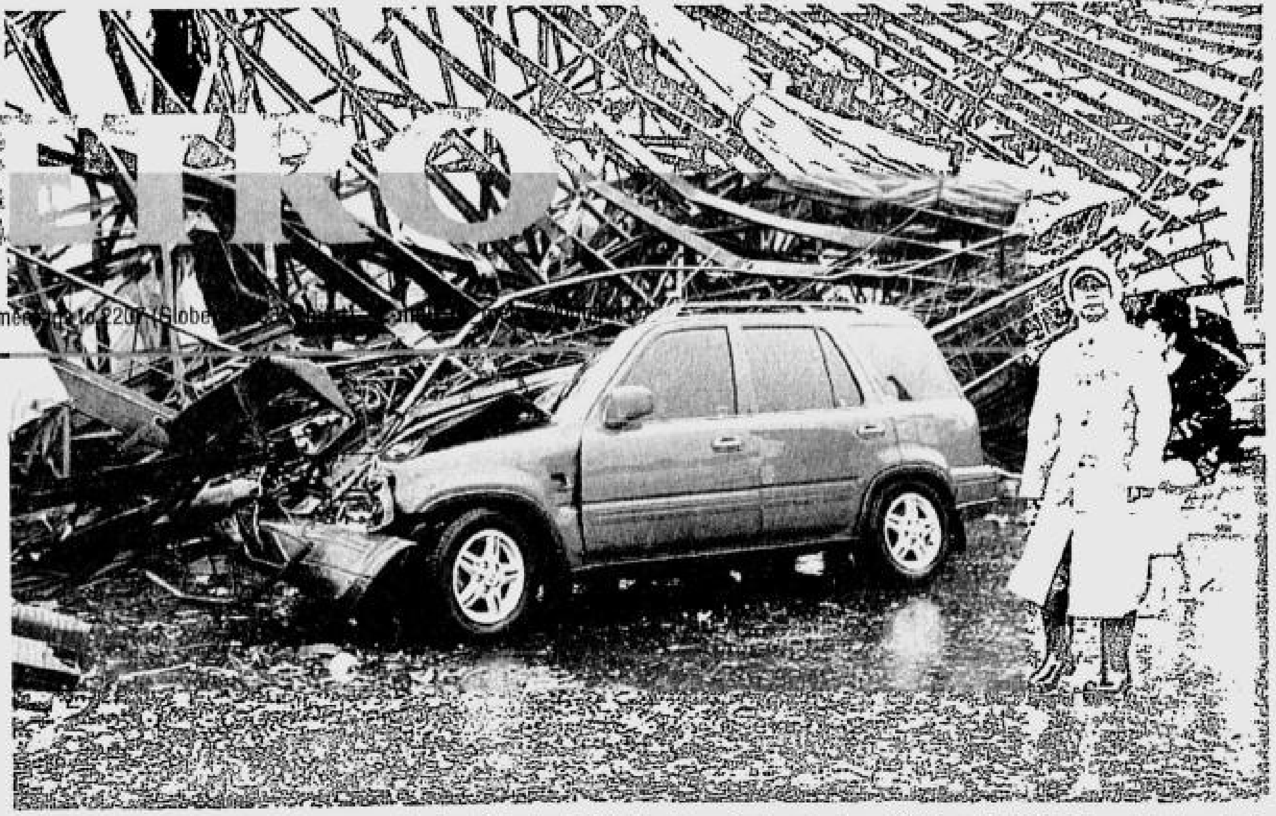

THE HOOD of a Honda Civic was crushed and its windshield shattered when typhoon "Milenyo's" 110-kph winds toppled a billboard at the corner of Roxas Boulevard and MIA Road in Pasay City yesterday. BRENT JASON KHO/CONTRIBUTOR

TYPHOON 'MILENYO' CASUALTY

Huge billboard crushes driver

By Tarra V. Quismundo and DJ Yap

IN THE MIDDLE OF A RAGING CONTROVERSY over the hazards posed by huge billboards in Metro Manila, a man was killed when a giant ad on top of a building fell on his vehicle in Makati yesterday.

The billboard, one of several that were toppled by strong winds wrought by typhoon "Milenyo" which hit Metro Manila, struck a delivery vehicle, a car and a passenger bus when it fell at around 12:30 p.m., near Estrella Street, on the northbound side of Edsa.

Felipe Gumapon, a driver of Primepower Laundry and Dryclean Services, was killed, while eight others were injured.

"What can I say? I told you so," said Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chair Bayani Fernando as he supervised clearing operations.

Traffic on the northbound side of Edsa was heavy as only one lane of the highway was passable to vehicles.

Safety hazard

The MMDA has long been pushing for the removal of giant billboards installed beside roads in the metropolis because of the danger these could pose to pedestrians and motorists.

Fernando estimated that the billboard that collapsed was around 12 meters high and 30 meters wide.

MMDA crewmen at the site said its steel frames may have been weakened by the typhoon's strong winds.

Gumapon, 60, was driving the firm's delivery van and cruising behind a Cubao-bound bus and a Toyota Revo, when the billboard toppled.

Two coworkers, who were also in the van, were injured and brought to the Makati Medical Center. Manuel Evangelista, 38, the driver of the Revo, sustained minor injuries along with five bus passengers.

Vergel de Dios, MMDA Traffic Operations Center executive director, said they would file charges against the owner of the billboard.

Strong winds and heavy rains announced the arrival of typhoon "Milenyo" as it slammed into the metropolis.

A windy downpour uprooted trees and lamp posts, swept away iron-sheet roofs, and flooded major thoroughfares in the city.

By early afternoon, the storm had already left some areas looking like disaster sites,

HUGE/ A24

MMDA, DPWH clash over giant signages

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

AN IRRITATED PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo yesterday ordered the Department of Public Works and Highways and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority to address the problem created by the proliferation of billboards in the metropolis.

She gave the order during the National Disaster Coordinating Council meeting held in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando, meanwhile, said his agency would immediately push for the declaration of giant billboards as a public nuisance to allow his men to take them down.

He added that if Ms Arroyo had declared the structures a nuisance, the courts would not stop his men from dismantling them as he has wanted to do in the past few years.

Fernando said strong winds wrought by typhoon "Milenyo" toppled a billboard on the northbound stretch of Edsa, causing a huge traffic jam and the death of a man who was struck by the billboard's steel frame.

According to him, he expected the DPWH to issue the necessary guidelines to implement the President's order.

But DPWH Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. said that the agency's hands were tied because billboard owners were protected by law.

"What law will we use? We can only bring these billboards down in accordance with the law," said Ebdane who admitted that billboard owners failed to heed the government's warning for them to take down the

MMDA/ A24

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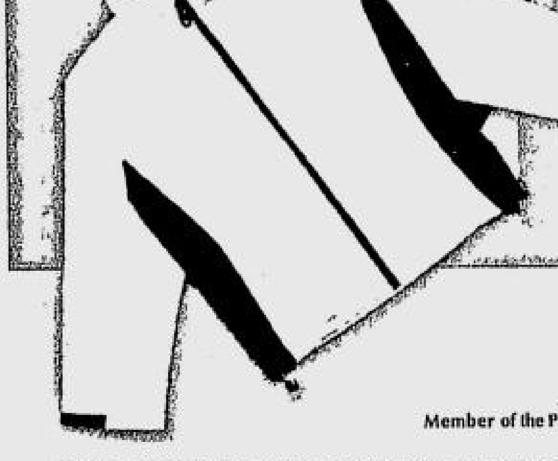

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See flyers for details.

Binay vows to fight 'political storm'

By Tarra V. Quismundo

AS TYPHOON "MILENYO" pounded Metro Manila yesterday, an opposition mayor said he was also in the middle of a storm, one which he claimed was the handiwork of the administration.

Following the filing of a case against him in the Sandiganbayan, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay yesterday vowed to put up a fight against "a political storm."

"*Binabagyo kami sa oposisyon* ... (The opposition is being hit from all sides). But this will pass and our surroundings will again brighten up. Right now, we will face all challenges being hurled at us by the Arroyo regime. If they think they can dishearten us, they are wrong," the mayor said in a statement.

The Ombudsman on Wednesday filed graft charges against Binay over the alleged anomalous purchase of furniture worth P231 million for the new Makati City Hall building from 1999 to 2001.

The charges were based on a complaint filed in 2003 by his political adversary, Roberto Brillante, which cited a Commission on Audit report that found supposed irregularities in the transaction.

Named as Binay's co-respondents were his wife, Elenita, who was mayor at the time the transaction was made, city administrator Nicanor Santiago, former city officials and officers of companies that were awarded the purchase orders.

Binay, however, said that "the city government had officially replied to the COA findings at that time."

"I have always stood for the rule of law. I will submit myself to the jurisdiction of the court and follow the legal process. I am confident that the court will render a fair decision," he added.

The charges were filed just as Binay, Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado, and 16 city councilors were named in a separate administrative case Brillante filed at the Department of Interior and Local Government.

In the second case, Brillante accused Binay of keeping ghost employees in the City Hall payroll.

Huge billboard crushes driver

From page A23

with torn branches littering the streets, electric posts and billboards toppling over, and huge trees crashing down on parked vehicles.

Electrocuted

In Quezon City, a woman identified as Linda Estedillo was killed when winds swept away the roof of her house in Barangay Santo Domingo. She tried to hold on to the roof but it made contact with a high tension wire, immediately electrocuting her, reports said.

In Barangay Corazon de Jesus, San Juan, a concrete wall collapsed on several shanties, killing a 26-year-old woman and injuring two persons.

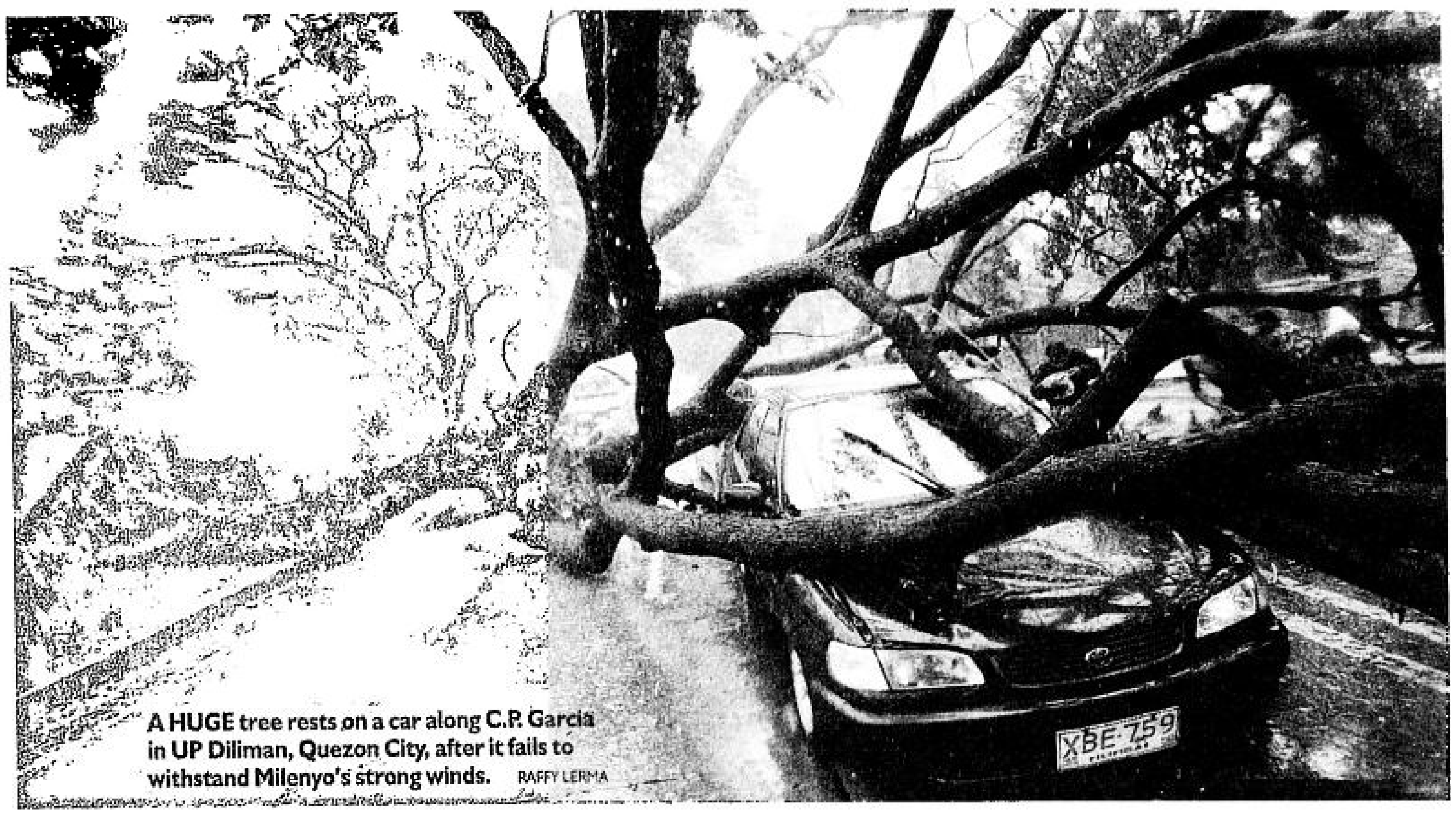
Eastern Police District director, Chief Supt. Luizo Ticman, told the INQUIRER that Princess Pacheco sustained head injuries and was declared dead at the San Juan Medical Center.

Two other residents, Filomena Babaylan, 73, and Alfredo Carolina, 74, were hurt.

Passengers of a Gasat bus cruising along East Avenue, near the Philippine Heart Center in Quezon City, were jolted out of their seats when a tree crashed down on the vehicle. No one was injured although the incident destroyed the windshield.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, meanwhile, placed his city under a state of calamity.

The mayor went around Manila yesterday to examine the damage left by "Milenyo," particularly in the Parola Compound in Tondo and Baseco in Port Area.



A HUGE tree rests on a car along C.P. Garcia in UP Diliman, Quezon City, after it fails to withstand Milenyo's strong winds. RAFFY LERMA

Hundreds of families in the two areas were evacuated to safer grounds as floodwaters rose.

Atienza announced the suspension of classes in all levels in the city's schools to give the city government enough time to carry out repairs and clear streets of fallen trees and lamp posts.

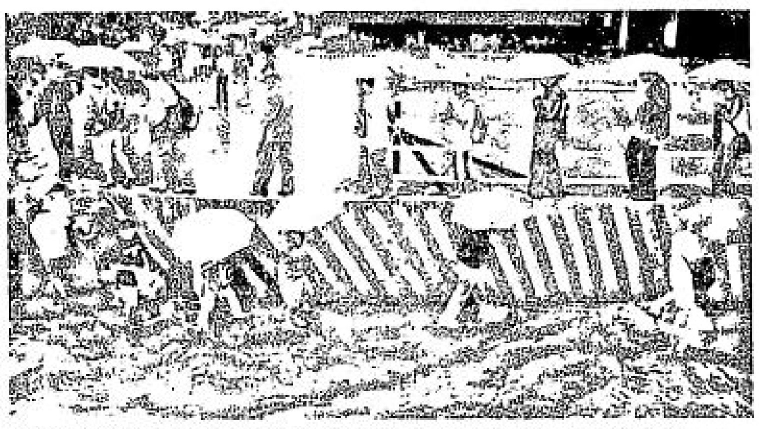
Evacuation operations were underway in Rizal province where four children were reported missing.

Officials are still confirming reports that four children fell into a river in Taytay in the middle of a heavy downpour, social welfare officer Monette Martin told the INQUIRER.

"We are still hoping they could just be somewhere," she said.

Martin added that more than 1,200 families were evacuated in several barangays in Rizal: 308 families in Barangay San Vicente, 380 families in Poblacion Itaas and 250 families in Barangay Kalayaan, all in Angono; more than 500 families in Barangay San Luis in Antipolo City and 140 families in Taytay.

With Edson C. Tandoc, Tina G. Santos, Nancy C. Carvajal and Jocelyn R. Uy



PEDESTRIANS take the "high road" to avoid getting their feet wet on a flooded sidewalk along Edsa. REM ZAMORA

MMDA, DPWH clash ...

From page A23

structures before a storm.

He suggested that "vigilantes" do the dismantling of the billboards. "If you like, you can hire billboard vigilantes and they will be the ones to bring them down," Ebdane said.

Last year, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago filed Senate Bill 1714, or the Anti-Billboard Blight Act, which sought to put restrictions on the installation of billboards in public areas. The bill, however, is still pending in the Senate.

The DPWH has also drafted a circular which would ban billboards from being displayed beside major roads nationwide.

The circular, which came from the department's National Building Code Development Office, has already been submitted for approval to Ebdane.

Once approved, it would prohibit the putting up of advertising billboards or signs within a 100-meter radius from the center of national roads as well as transmission lines. It also calls for the removal within six months of existing display boards within the 100-m radius.

Makati City publishes guide book for residents

By Tarra V. Quismundo

WHAT DOCUMENTS ARE NEEDED in applying for a business permit? For the answer, turn to page 186. Looking for vocational training scholarships? Flip to page 80.

The Makati City government has begun distributing some 10,000 copies of the Makati Citizen's Guide Book, a manual published by City Hall that contains useful information—from basic services being offered by the local government to how to hold an exhibit at the city's museum.

Joey Salgado, chief of Makati's Information and Community Relations Department (ICRD), said they have given out copies of the the handbook to barangay leaders which they can lend to residents in their respective areas.

"We want to be able to better deal with our citizens by making government transactions less of a burden, to treat residents as our clients or customers. Private firms provide them with good service, so why shouldn't we do the same?" Salgado said in an interview.

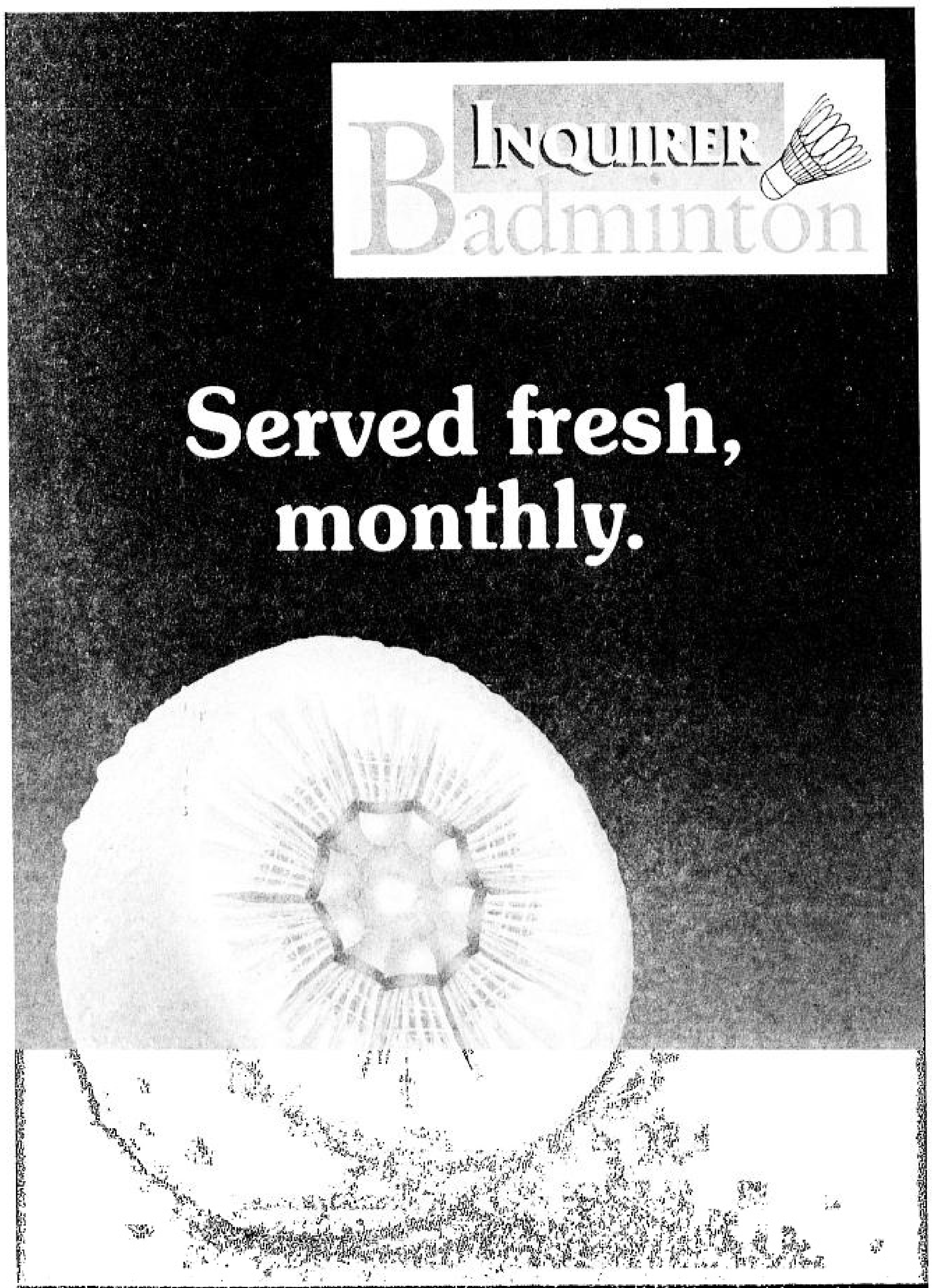
Detailed information

The book contains step-by-step procedure on how to avail of the city's benefit cards and how to apply for a birth or death certificate and marriage contract, business permit or clearance.

It also discusses the payment of real property taxes and other fees—whether over the counter or through computerized payment centers.

"What we did was compile services offered by our frontline offices, those that deal directly with the public. Then we outlined the flow of application and the requirements, because what often happens is that residents would go to City Hall and apply only to find that they have some documents lacking," Salgado said.

Also listed in the handbook are services being offered by the city government on health and legal counseling as well as scholarships and free employment training programs.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METROBRIEFS

Adulterated cement seized

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation yesterday warned the public against the proliferation in the market of adulterated cement. The warning came after NBI agents raided on Wednesday night two warehouses and a hardware store allegedly involved in rebagging and selling substandard cement. Special Investigator Joey Narciso of the NBI-National Capital Region said the practice, popularly referred to as "buriki," involves mixing cement with other filling materials such as limestone and hard wheat flour. "This kind of cement does not harden properly and poses a grave threat to public safety," the NBI said. Raided were the Golden Lucky Hardware in Sitio Cabading, Antipolo City and two warehouses on Real St., United North Fairview Subdivision, Quezon City. Agents seized 644 bags of cement, 328 sacks of limestone, 20 sacks of hard wheat flour and 2,097 empty sacks of different cement brands.

Tina G. Santos

Forum on caring for elderly

BANTAY Matanda, a nongovernment organization which aims to educate Filipino families in caring for their elderly loved ones, has organized a forum titled "Caring for yourself while caring for others." It will be held on Saturday, Sept. 30, 8 p.m. to 12 p.m., at the Janssen Hall, Christ the King Seminary on E. Rodriguez Blvd Ext., Quezon City. The main speaker is Dr. Deana Santos-Ringor, a geriatrician from St. Luke's Hospital. Those interested in joining the forum may call 3732262 or 0917-4167849.

Rotary donates vaccines

THE ROTARY Club of Pasay North, headed by their president Giovanni Alingog, conducted a medical mission on Sept. 14, donating over P3 million worth of vaccine against meningococcemia for residents in Barangay Malibay, Pasay City. Meningococcemia is a deadly virus that has symptoms similar to the common cold and flu, making it very difficult to detect. The medical mission was held in cooperation with the Pinoy May Kapansanan Foundation, the Malibay Health Center, 12 nurses and medical doctors and 20 caregivers. The Rotary Club Pasay North, a member of the Rotary International since January 1990, is a volunteer organization of businessmen and professionals that regularly conducts community services.

DID YOU KNOW

THE POLYTECHNIC University of the Philippines, one of the largest universities in the country with a student population of more than 52,000, was founded in October 1904 as the Manila Business School. It was renamed Philippine School of Commerce in 1908, and was merged with the Philippine Normal School from 1933 to 1946. In 1952, it became the Philippine College of Commerce, and was finally converted into a chartered state university in 1978 by virtue of Presidential Decree 1341.

Aside from its main campus in Sta. Mesa, Manila, PUP has five campuses, two branches and 10 extension campuses throughout the country.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

OSAMA bin Laden in Afghanistan in undated photo. AP

Bin Laden is alive, hiding in Afghanistan—Musharraf

LONDON—AL-QAIDA LEADER OSAMA BIN Laden, reported last week to have died, is alive and hiding in Afghanistan, Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf said in an interview published in The Times on Thursday.

"It's not a hunch," Musharraf said, speaking from a hotel in New York.

The newspaper, without directly quoting Pakistan's military ruler, said he believed Bin Laden was hiding in the eastern Afghan province of Kunar.

"Kunar province borders on Bajaur Agency. We know there are some pockets of al-Qaida in Bajaur Agency. We have set a good intelligence organization," he told The Times.

Musharraf dismissed reports Bin Laden may have died from typhoid fever that emerged from a French intelligence memo citing Saudi sources that was leaked to a newspaper at the weekend.

"I don't know" about Bin Laden having died, he said. "Unless I am sure I never say anything," said Musharraf.

"If they have some source they should tell us. At least our intelligence does not know anything."

The report met with widespread skepticism, with French, Saudi Arabian, US and Pakistani officials saying it could not be confirmed.

The Pakistani leader also suggested links between Bin Laden and Afghan warlord and former Afghan Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, saying: "In Kunar province it is Gulbuddin Hekmatyar who is operating."

"There must be some linkages."

In Washington, meanwhile, the inability to take down Bin Laden ahead of the Sept. 11 attacks haunts President George W. Bush and his predecessor Bill Clinton, leading to a blame game between their administrations.

The bipartisan commission that looked into events leading up to the 2001 terror strikes gave a nuanced and detailed account of the efforts by both presidents in a hefty report published two years ago, but it did not say which president did the most to hunt down Bin Laden.

Bush's Republicans and Clinton's Democrats have sniped at each other for years in the media over who was responsible, but the squabble reached new heights when Clinton took on his detractors in a feisty television interview Sunday—just weeks ahead of crucial November congressional elections.

Clinton said he was the only US president to have made a serious effort to capture or kill Bin Laden. "They ridiculed me for trying. They had eight months to try. They did not try," said Clinton in a Fox News interview.

"That's the difference in me and some, including all of the right-wingers who are attacking me now," he said.

Clinton, who left office in January 2001, said he had authorized the Central Intelligence Agency to assassinate Bin Laden long before the Sept. 11 attacks. *AFP*

Ex-Karadzic ally draws 27 years for war crimes

KRAJIS NIK AFP

THE HAGUE—THE United Nations war crimes court sentenced Bosnian Serb politician Momcilo Krajisnik to 27 years in prison Wednesday for his role in Bosnia's "ethnic cleansing," but acquitted him of genocide.

Krajisnik is one of the highest ranking Bosnian Serb politicians to be convicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) over the 1992-1995 Bosnia war, in which some 200,000 people died.

The verdict was met with outrage from Bosnian victims' groups who said they were shocked Krajisnik was acquitted of genocide.

The judges concluded that although Krajisnik was part of a joint criminal enterprise aimed at driving Muslims and Croats out of parts of Bosnia, and there was some evidence that genocidal acts did take place, it could not be proved that he had intended to commit genocide.

Krajisnik, a close ally of fugitive Bosnian Serb wartime leader Radovan Karadzic, "knew about and intended mass detention and expulsion of civilians," the judges said.

"Mr. Krajisnik wanted the Muslim and the Croat population moved out of Bosnian Serb territory in large numbers and accepted that a heavy price of suffering, death and destruction was necessary to achieve Serb domination and a viable statehood," Orie said.

Krajisnik, 61, his face dominated by his greying brows and shock of grey hair, listened to the verdict without emotion.

The former speaker of the Bosnian Serb parliament was found guilty of persecution, extermination, murder, deportation and forced transfer.

In the early years of the war, Bosnian Serb forces launched widespread attacks on Bosnian Muslim and Bosnian Croat villages, killing many people and forcing the remainder to leave. *AFP*

HEY, HOYA, WANNA SIGN UP THIS AUSSIE CHAMP?

An Australian kangaroo boxes with a man in a clown suit during the 2006 Animal Olympics at the Shanghai Wild Animal Park, Sept. 28. The event involves an elephant carrying the Olympic torch and various animals including zebras and mountain goats in hurdles and races. AFP

Diabetes treatment disappoints

A NEW STUDY FINDS THAT transplants of insulin-making cells, which reversed severe diabetes in an initial trial, have not lived up to their early promise.

The cell transplants did free patients from insulin shots, but only temporarily. Within two years, 86 percent needed insulin again, according to a report being published Thursday in The New England Journal of Medicine.

The patients had severe Type 1 diabetes, also called juvenile diabetes, in which the body lacks insulin and people must inject it several times a day to control blood sugar. They were given islet cells from the pancreas of a deceased organ donor.

The transplants do not require major surgery, just a tube inserted into a vein in the abdomen so that the cells can be dripped into the liver, where they take up residence in tiny blood vessels. Because the transplanted cells come from someone else, recipients must take immune-suppressing drugs for life to prevent rejection.

The study, involving 36 patients at nine centers in the United States, Canada and Europe, was inspired by a smaller trial published in 2000 that sparked excitement about a transplant technique called the Edmonton protocol, developed at the University of Alberta.

In that initial test, none of the patients needed insulin shots—but when the report was published, none had been followed for more than 14 months. Later, many did need the shots again. *NYT*

Thailand junta vows to name new PM this weekend

BANGKOK—THAILAND'S NEW ruling generals said Wednesday they would name a new prime minister this weekend as they pressed ahead with plans to revamp the nation a week after seizing power in a bloodless coup.

A popular retired general and a former head of the World Trade Organization emerged as the front-runners to replace Thaksin Shinawatra, the billionaire tycoon toppled by the junta and now living in exile in London.

Coup leader Gen. Sondhi Boonyaratkalin would meet Thailand's revered King Bhumibol Adulyadej, who approved of Thaksin's ouster, to present the draft of a new national constitution on Saturday, a spokesperson said.

"The name of the new prime minister will be announced one day after," said the spokesperson, Maj. Gen. Thawip Netniyom, adding that no decision on the premier had yet been made.

Naming a new prime minister within a fortnight was one of the key pledges Sondhi and his generals made to the Thai people after their lightning coup on Sept. 19, which came while Thaksin was out of the country.

Coup leaders revoked the constitution, dismissed the government, imposed martial law and placed restrictions on the media and political parties, before Sondhi announced the military-appointed premier would serve for only one year.

During that time, a new constitution would be written and elections set for around October 2007, part of sweeping plans to overhaul the nation's political life and end months of turmoil under Thaksin's leadership.

Thai newspapers were awash with speculation Wednesday that popular former Gen. Surayud Chulanont could become the new prime minister after Sondhi said retired officers would be considered for the post. *AFP*

TOURISTS walk past an ancient decoration at the newly opened Suvarnabhumi Airport in Bangkok Sept. 28. AP

Bangkok's new int'l airport opens

BANGKOK, THAILAND—Bangkok's new international airport officially opened Thursday, with a few technical glitches but otherwise positive reviews from passengers arriving at the sleek, modern hub on its first full day of operation.

Flights stopped landing at the old, overcrowded Don Muang airport after midnight Wednesday. The full transfer of passenger flights to the airy, expansive Suvarnabhumi Airport was completed at 3 a.m. Thursday (2000 GMT Wednesday), more than four decades after the project was originally conceived in 1960.

The transition went smoothly, aside from some delays at check-in counters and in delivering baggage.

"For the first day, it's pretty good. I thought there would be a lot more confusion," said Stephen Gordon, a 54-year-old car mechanic from Queensland, Australia, who said he was impressed by the modern, airy design of the new airport but missed the cramped, chaotic feel of Don Muang.

"The old airport had character—as soon as you landed, it felt like you were in Thailand," said Gordon, as he waited with his wife and daughter to board a flight to the resort island of Phuket. "Here, you could be flying into anywhere. This could be Sweden."

Built on an area known as Cobra Swamp, the construction of Suvarnabhumi was blighted by everything from corruption scandals and a deadly fire to the military coup that ousted Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra on Sept. 19.

Thaksin, who turned up the pressure to complete the airport—built in four and a half years, all during his time in office—heralded Suvarnabhumi as one of his administration's crowning achievements.

The military assigned 800 troops to the airport for 90 days to support the transfer and help with troubleshooting. Several army canine units were deployed at the passenger terminal to inspect suspicious packages.

But the coup had no impact on the airport's opening.

By 9 a.m., well over 100 flights had landed and taken off at Suvarnabhumi.

Airport staff said heavy rain delayed the overnight transfer of equipment from the old airport, slowing the movement of luggage from the aircraft to arriving passengers.

Thai Airways suffered computer problems and check-in staff had to temporarily check passengers in manually on all domestic and international flights, a Thai Airways official said on condition of anonymity, citing company policy. The problem was fixed after about 15 minutes.

"The place is nice, but the service is a bit slow," said Therdsak Leokprasirtkul, a well-traveled Thai businessman en route to Hong Kong. "My flight is also delayed by an hour and a half."

Others complained about a lack of seating in the check-in hall, and not enough toilets.

"The bathroom is too small. We had to queue. There was no liquid soap, no hand dryer—or I didn't see it," said Alex Chia, 43, a tourist flying home to Malaysia. *AP*

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DVD/RW
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LG
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JPEG Playback, Light and Slim
Design, 3D Surround Sound
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Pioneer
DV696AV
HDMI Output
with Video scaler
Slim Design
DVD Audio and
SACD Universal
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583 /mo for 12months

0% 12 months
MAGIC SING
MABUHAY
ED8000
11,450 cash
954 /mo for 12months

refrigerator

0% 3 months
SAMSUNG
R18FHSS
6 cu. ft.,
Big Freezer, Big Chiller
Semi-automatic Defrost
system
9,495 cash

0% 6 months
Panasonic
NR-A705D
7.0 cu. ft,
219L
EEF285
Semi- Automatic
11,099 cash
3,700 /mo for 3 months

CONDURA
CSO65SA
6.0 cu. ft.
Semi-Automatic
9,295 cash
1,549 /mo for 6months

component

0% 12 months
FREE MICROPHONE & SOFTWARE
JVC
MXDK1
DVD Video, DVD/R
VR and Video Format/
MP3/ JPEG
2000 watts
12,990 cash
1,083 /mo for 12months

LG
LMD2360
Component total 60W,
Output(1200W PMPO)
30W x 2ch DVD,
10,990 cash

SUPER SULIT
PHILIPS
MC-D129
Micro Component at super sulit price!
6,990 cash

aircon

0% 6 months
FREE DESK FAN
Panasonic
CW-SC72JPH
.75 HP Manual
12,799 cash
2,133 /mo for 6months

0% 6 months
FREE STAND FAN
CONDURA
WCOND006EA
.5 HP Manual
8,764 cash
1,460 /mo for 6months
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MWO EM10535
.6 cf
2,995 cash

FUJIDENZO
MR18SX
.6 cf Manual
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washing machine

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5.2 kg
3,398 cash

FUJIDENZO
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WHAT'S INSIDE

Alcano downs Chamat; Pagulayan yields title /A30

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SPORTS

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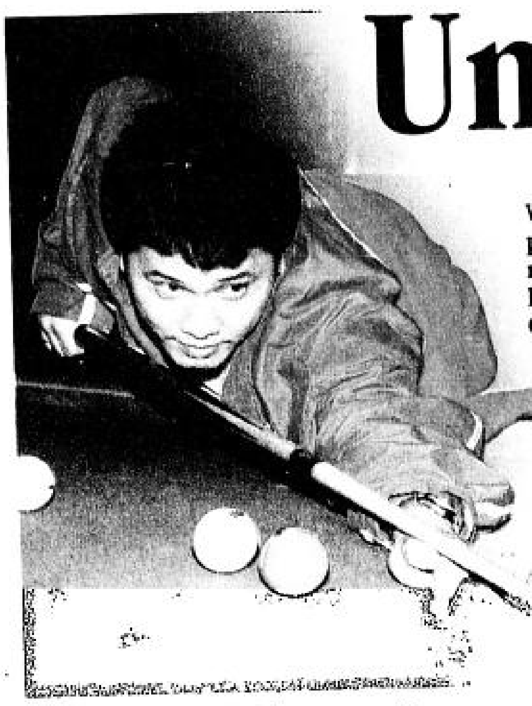
Unlikely pool trio for Asiad



ANTONIO GABICA: Ripe to carry the country's colors sans the superstars.

WITH THE REST OF THE COUNTRY'S TOP pool artists joining Efren "Bata" Reyes in a rich US tournament, the Philippine billiards campaign in the coming 2006 Asian Games this December was left in the hands of Antonio Gabica, Jeffrey De Luna and Leonardo Andam.

The unlikely choice of the three was revealed the other day by Billiards and Snooker Congress of the Philippines (BSCP) president Ernesto "Ernie" Fajardo in an exclusive interview with the INQUIRER.

Gabica will play both in the 8-ball and 9-ball pool competition. Andam will be seeing action only in the 8-ball and the rookie De Luna only in the 9-ball.

Reyes along with Francisco "Django" Bustamante have earlier passed up the qualifying tournament for the RP team to represent the country in the first World Cup of Pool which they won late last month.

But majority of the top players also begged off from joining the Asiad team because of the conflict in schedule with the money rich International Pool Tour.

The Doha Asian Games is slated on Dec. 3-11, which is sandwiched by two big IPT events.

The IPT Masters 8-Ball Championship with a total pot of $1,270,000 will be held Nov. 26 to Dec. 3 at the Rosemont Convention Center in Hyatt Regency O'Hare in Chicago (Rosemont), Illinois.

After the Asiad comes the $1,000,000 King of the Hill IPT 8-ball Shoot-out on Dec. 12-17 where Reyes is the defending champion. The event is set at The Wynn Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Aside from Reyes, the other Filipinos seeing action in the money rich IPT events are Busta-

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Ateneo-UST tomorrow

By Jasmine W. Payo

TYPHOON MILENYO MAY HAVE given Ateneo and University of Santo Tomas two unscheduled days of rest, but the Blue Eagles and the Santo Tomas Tigers remained psyched up.

Reset because of stormy weather yesterday, Game 2 of the best-of-three UAAP championship series will be played at 4 p.m. tomorrow at the Araneta Coliseum with the Eagles trying to wrap things up.

Ateneo coach Norman Black and UST mentor Pido Jarencio think that the delay hardly affected the intensity of their teams' title bid.

"There are circumstances not in our control and I don't think it will put any team to an advantage or at a disadvantage," said Black. "We're focused on our next game on Saturday."

The Eagles moved within a win from bagging the crown after securing Game 1 with a thrilling 73-72 triumph last Sunday.

Despite the two-day break, Jarencio refuses to claim that momentum has shifted in the Tigers' favor.

"We're just ready any time," he said. "The game can be played any day, we have no problem."

Both coaches also project no significant changes in their game tactics.

"We played last Sunday and they already had three days to make adjustments," said Black of the Tigers.

Preparation will resume today in both camps.

The Tigers, who will try to forge a winner-take-all Game 3 match on Monday, have also fully recovered from the heartbreaking setback.

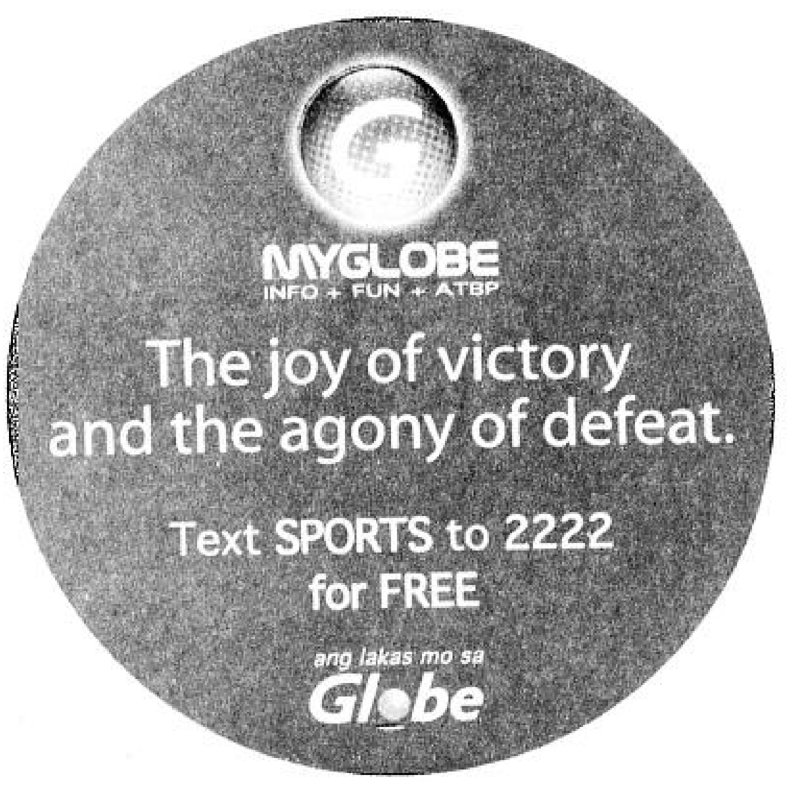
The title game will be preceded by the awarding of trophies to the season's top performers earlier at 3:30 p.m.

JC Intal of Ateneo and Ken Bono of Adamson are the heavy favorites to clinch the Most Valuable Player plum in the seniors division.

The day's three-game schedule will also feature the Ateneo Eaglets and the Far Eastern Baby Tamaraws disputing the juniors crown in a do-or-die Game 3 contest at 2 p.m.

The UST Tigresses and the FEU Lady Tamaraws will also tangle for the women's title at noon.

CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES TOMORROW
(Araneta Coliseum)
12 noon — UST vs FEU (Women-Game 3)
2 p.m.— Ateneo vs FEU (Jrs-Game 3)
3:30 p.m. — Awarding Ceremonies
4 p.m.— Ateneo vs UST (Srs-Game 2)



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Pumar risks WBC crown in S. Africa

UNBEATEN FILIPINO GABRIEL PUMAR WILL defend his World Boxing Council International minimumweight crown today at the NASREC Indoor Arena in Johannesburg, South Africa, against local hero Zukisani Kwayiba.

This will be Pumar's first defense of the title he won with a smashing seventh-round knockout over another South African Tshepo Lefele last March 31 at the Wembley Arena also in Johannesburg.

Pumar, who holds a record of 9-0-1, 6 KOs, will be assisted at ringside by trainer Juanito Ablaca and older brother Rolando Pumar, an ex-boxer.

Kwayiba is actually a second choice challenger for Pumar after South African promoter Branco Milenkovic reportedly failed to sign undefeated South African minimumweight champion Nkosinathi Joyi, who will be fighting for the vacant IBO minimumweight title on Nov. 4 at Emperors Palace in Kempton Park.

Kwayiba carries a record of 9 wins with 7 knockouts. He has never gone beyond four rounds in his career. *Salven L. Lagumbay, contributor*

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SBP likely to get okay from POC

By June Navarro

THE BALL IS NOW IN THE HANDS of the Philippine Olympic Committee and the International Basketball Federation.

A day after telecommunications magnate Manny V. Pangilinan agreed to serve as chair and president of the Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas, the newly formed group wasted no time asking the POC for recognition and getting the message across to the Fiba.

Bernie Atienza, a member of the three-man panel which crafted the constitution and by-laws of the SBP, said a formal request for recognition was already transmitted to the Olympic body while an official communication to the Fiba was sent through Basketball Association of the Philippines president Joey Lina.

"The next step is to wait for the corresponding reactions from the POC and Fiba," said Atienza, the Pilipinas Basketball president who joined hands with Lina and Pangilinan to form the unified basketball organization.

"With all confidence, I believe we will get a positive response from these organizations," he added.

There is no doubt that the SBP could get recognition from the POC after its president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco welcomed MVP's decision to lead the new cage group.

"I think it will be easier for the POC to accept this organization with Mr. Pangilinan as its leader,'" said Cojuangco. "He (Pangilinan) has no agenda and has shown sincerity in helping the sport get back on its feet."

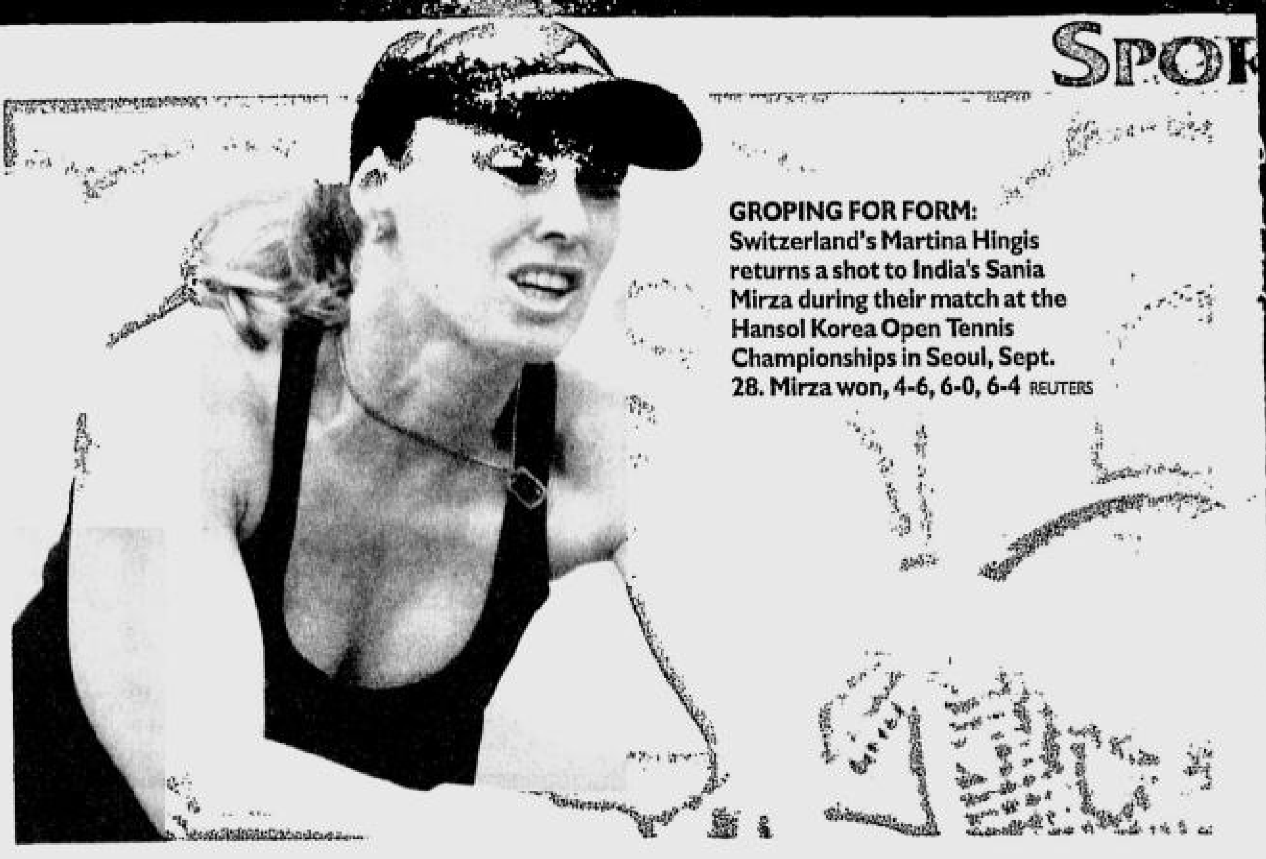
The POC has a voting membership of 38 national sports associations and the SBP needs to get the nod of at least 28 NSAs.

But even if the SBP gets the nod of the Fiba and receives the blessing of the Olympic body, the national dribblers are definitely out of the Asian Games in Doha, Qatar, slated Dec. 1.

"We've talked about it in the POC assembly and agreed not to send a team to the Asian Games," said Cojuangco. "Preparation is important so I'm not in favor of sending a hastily formed team."

After beating the Sept. 30 deadline for the BAP and the PB to settle their differences for a common stand, the SBP expects a favorable decision from Fiba, the world governing body for the sport.

Getting reinstated means giving the national dribblers an opportunity to qualify for the Beijing 2008 Olympics through the Asian Championships next year.



GROPING FOR FORM: Switzerland's Martina Hingis returns a shot to India's Sania Mirza during their match at the Hansol Korea Open Tennis Championships in Seoul, Sept. 28. Mirza won, 4-6, 6-0, 6-4 REUTERS

Welcoat a contender in 3 years

By Musong R. Castillo

Game Sunday *(Araneta Coliseum)*
4 p.m.—Opening Ceremonies
6 p.m.—Welcoat vs Barangay Ginebra

WELCOAT EXPECTS TO BE COMPETING for a Philippine Basketball Association championship in three years at the soonest.

In the meantime, the newest kid on the block will try to enjoy all the publicity it can get.

"That's why we are here (in the PBA), to get all the media mileage we can," said co-owner Raymund Yu over the phone yesterday, just three days before clashing with rock-solid Barangay Ginebra in the Philippine Cup inaugurals.

"Whatever happens (in our first game), we will be playing the most popular team in the land," Yu added. "And that says a lot as far as exposure goes."

To be known as the Dragons, Welcoat bought the Pilipinas Shell franchise earlier in the year, and the owners, the other being Terry Que, have now felt the difference between pro and amateur ball—especially the logistical side of it.

"Easily, it's (the increase in cost in maintaining a team) more than 300 percent compared to our days in the PBL," Yu said. "But it is all worth it, because we saw how high the level of play has improved."

Teams in the PBL easily cough up around P10 million a year and Welcoat will spend more than triple that amount to play with the big boys and avoid being beaten black and blue in its early years.

"Players in this league are more refined. I've not seen wasted movement in all the (pre-season) games that I have seen," he said. "We expect to compete for a championship in three years."

Against the Gin Kings, the Dragons could be taking more fire than they could spew, as they will clash with what could go down as the most complete team in league history—no offense to the fabled Crispa and Toyota squads before.

But Yu believes that despite the teams ragtag label, the Dragons have a strong driving force— hunger. "Most of our players were the ones who were overlooked by their former teams," Yu said.

Unlikely pool trio for Asiad

From page A27

mante, Alex Pagulayan, Marlon Manalo, Dennis Orcollo, Jose Parica, Ronato Alcano, Gabica, Rodolfo Luat, Antonio Lining, Ramil Gallego, Warren Kiamco, Ramon Mistica, Lee Van Corteza, Santos Sambajon and Edwin Montal.

Perry Mariano, manager of Gabica and De Luna, noted that one would have to go through a "killer" schedule if he plays in the US, goes to Doha, then returns to US anew.

The Philippines won a gold, silver and bronze with a powerhouse billiards team in the 2002 Asiad in Busan, Korea.

Bustamante and Lining ruled the 9 ball doubles, Kiamco picked up a silver in the 9 ball singles and Reyes had a bronze in the 8 ball singles.

Marlon Bernardino, contributor

PBL holds rookie camp on Oct. 11

FORMER NATIONAL PLAYER JOEY GUANIO will be the drillmaster when the Philippine Basketball League stages its rookie camp on Oct. 11 at the JCSGO Gym in Cubao.

Once a member of the coaching staff of Shell in the pro league, Guanio has already designed several exercises that will test and determine the strengths and weaknesses of the aspiring players.

For small players, Guanio said he will devise drills to ascertain their mobility and ball handling skills.

Positioning inside the paint, including posting up on offensive plays and grabbing the rebounds, will be Guanio's challenge for big men.

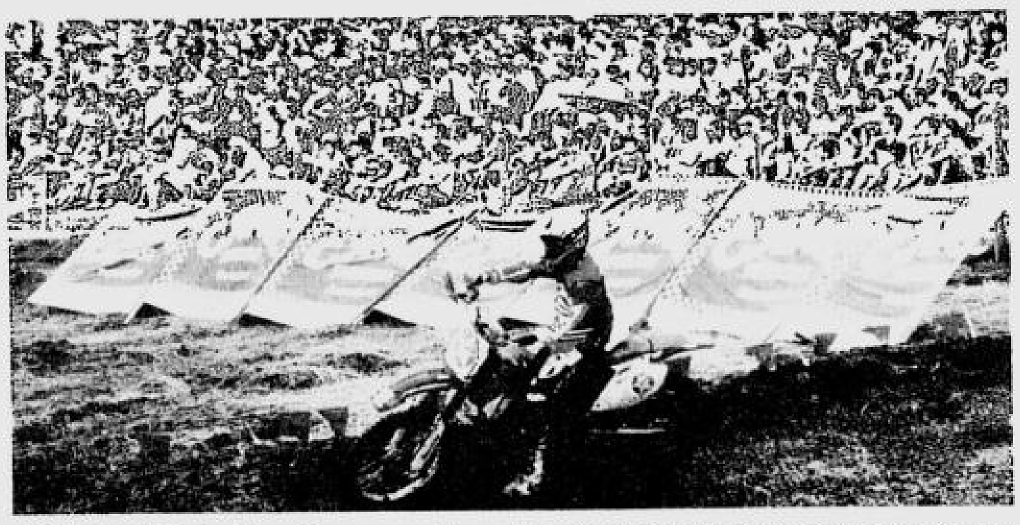
The range of their shooting will also be put to test as most teams in the country's premier amateur basketball league are now scouring for pure shooters.

"We need to develop players who have excellent outside shooting *kasi yong* athletic ability *kasi likas na sa mga Pilipino*," said Commissioner Chino Trinidad.

Despite the exit of several marquee players, Trinidad remains upbeat the league can find exciting players in the one-day camp.

After the rookie camp, the league will hold its Rookie Draft on Oct. 13 for the season-opening Silver Cup. Now on its 25th season, the league opens shop on Nov. 11.

For details, call Lanie Sagayap at 667-3008-09.



SUPERCROSS: The Camel Supercross International Championship Series hits the road anew in Talisay City on Oct. 1 with the country's top riders seeing action. The island-hopping event sanctioned by the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association will also be held in Ormoc City on Nov. 12 and Iloilo City on Nov. 25.

Winslow gets inside track

AFTER SWEEPING THE LAST FIVE RACES AT the Sentul International Circuit in Bogor, Indonesia, Briton James Winslow gets the inside track in the race for the overall title in the Asian Formula Three Series going into the Batangas leg in November.

Winslow, however, can't afford to be complacent as anything can still happen when the last four rounds are held at the Batangas Racing Circuit on Nov. 4-5.

Chasing him are Ali Jackson of Ireland's Aran Racing and Pinoy star Tyson Sy of Speedtech Asia who are just 26 and 32 points behind, respectively.

"It's not a done deal said Winslow, lead driver of JA Motorsport. "I still have to work hard in Batangas. One mistake could be costly."

The Sentul romp gave Winslow 100 points, enough to propel him to the overall lead over erstwhile points leader Jackson.

Asked to describe his rousing performance, Winslow chose not to rave about the points he earned but instead looked back at the accident that nearly cost Indon Moreno Soeprapto of R&W Team Indonesia his life in Round 14.

"It would have been perfect if not for Moreno's accident," said Winslow, who heroically pulled Soeprapto out of his burning car, an act that earned the admiration of organizers and fellow drivers alike.

"The important thing is Moreno's all right," added Winslow.

He will go into the Batangas races with 207 points to Jackson's 181 and Sy's 172.

Legaspi heads Jungolf champions at Villamor

REIGNING WORLD AGE-GROUP champion Mia Legaspi won unchallenged even as other veteran internationalists also stamped their class in the recent school season series of the Samsung Jungolf Tour at the Villamor Golf Club.

Legaspi, who figured in a triple victory for the Philippines in the Junior World last July, topped the girls Class E division in the tourney which counted the best two out of four rounds held in the three weekends of September.

Multi-titled jungolfers Andrea Unson and AR Ramos also prevailed. Unson topped girls Class C while Ramos ruled boys Class D.

The other winners were Carlos Tinio in Class A (15-17 years), Remo Fueg and Paulina Sotto in Class B (13-14), RJ Tallud and Andie Unson in Class C (11-12), Daniella Uy in Class D (9-10), Lanz Uy in Class E (7-8) and Chloe Reyes and Phillipe Winsette in Class F (6 under).

Meanwhile, the next leg of the school season series also supported by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office scheduled to start tomorrow has been postponed.

The tourney will serve as the qualifying round for the 2007 World Junior tournament in Malaysia and the 3rd Asia-Pacific Junior Masters in Calcutta, India.

Jungolf also announced its election officers on Oct. 12 at Riviera which will be preceded by a tournament.

Rosales shoots 70 in Taiwan

TAIPEI—INDIA'S S.S.P Chowrasia fired a superb eight-under-par 64 to take the first round lead at the $500,000 Mercuries Taiwan Masters on Thursday.

The-28-year-old enjoyed a blemish free round with eight birdies as he equaled the course record set by Chinese Taipei's Yuan Ching-chi in 1994 at the Taiwan Golf and Country Club.

Compatriot Rahil Gangjee carded a 66 for joint second position alongside Adam Blyth of Australia. Chinese Taipei duo of Chen Tsang-te and Sung Mao-chang were in tied fourth after a 69 together with New Zealander Richard Lee, Australia's Simon Nash and Bryan Saltus of United States.

ANGELO QUE

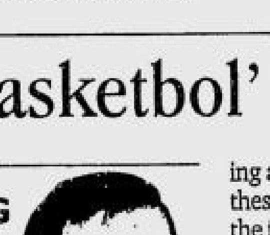
All three Filipinos in the field performed creditably in the first round with Gerald Rosales shooting a two-under 70 and Juvic Pagunsan and Angelo Que matching par 72.

AFP

Will POC accept 'Samahang Basketbol' as a new member?

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo



THE PHILIPPINE OLYMPIC COMMITTEE IS the sole authority that accepts and recognizes as members of its official family one NSA (national sports association) for each sport, in this case the Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas which is seeking POC membership in its bid to lift the Fiba (international basketball federation) ban on the country.

Still, SBP recognition won't come on a silver platter as POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco had voiced doubts on the legitimacy of the 25-member SBP board composed of 12 from the Basketball Association of the Philippines headed by former Sen. Joey Lina, 12 from Pilipinas Basketball led by Bernie Atienza and business tycoon Manny V. Pangilinan, the 25th member who was designated chair of the panel that crafted the SBP constitution.

According to Cojuangco, many members of the SBP board don't seem to be duly elected officials of the leagues/organizations they represent. However, he said that if the SBP board is only transitory because of time constraint, "then I think it is OK." But if it is a permanent board, he said this will raise many questions like, "Are these officials elected by their organizations?"

There are two conditions that must be met in order to be recognized as an affiliated member of Fiba: (1) the officers are duly elected, and (2) the national federation (the SBP in this case) is recognized by the highest sport authority in the country, which in the Philippines, is the Philippine Olympic Committee.

Clearly, Fiba requires that affiliated members should be elected officials of the leagues/organizations they represent (regional chapters, for example) and not those who were merely appointed by their leagues or organizations.

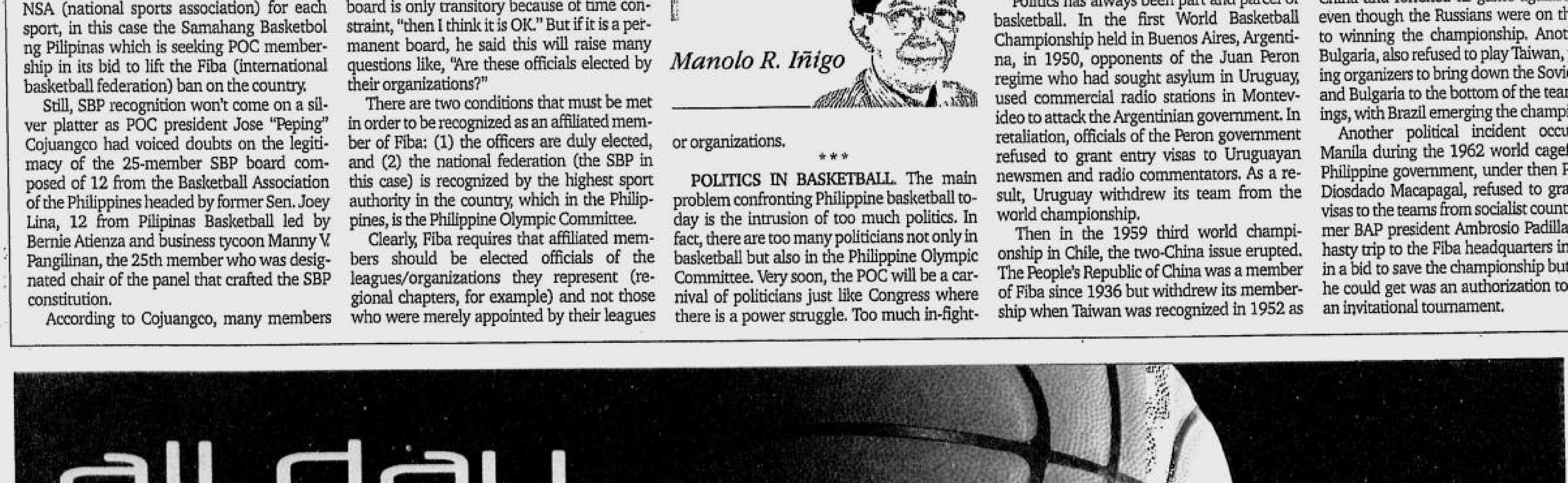
***

POLITICS IN BASKETBALL. The main problem confronting Philippine basketball today is the intrusion of too much politics. In fact, there are too many politicians not only in basketball but also in the Philippine Olympic Committee. Very soon, the POC will be a carnival of politicians just like Congress where there is a power struggle. Too much in-fighting and bickering should not happen because these petty quarrels destroy sports as well as the future of the athletes.

Politics has always been part and parcel of basketball. In the first World Basketball Championship held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 1950, opponents of the Juan Peron regime who had sought asylum in Uruguay, used commercial radio stations in Montevideo to attack the Argentinian government. In retaliation, officials of the Peron government refused to grant entry visas to Uruguayan newsmen and radio commentators. As a result, Uruguay withdrew its team from the world championship.

Then in the 1959 third world championship in Chile, the two-China issue erupted. The People's Republic of China was a member of Fiba since 1936 but withdrew its membership when Taiwan was recognized in 1952 as the Basketball Association of the Republic of China. Stormy sessions ensued as the Soviet Union, a longtime ally, supported mainland China and forfeited its game against Taiwan even though the Russians were on their way to winning the championship. Another ally, Bulgaria, also refused to play Taiwan, prompting organizers to bring down the Soviet Union and Bulgaria to the bottom of the team standings, with Brazil emerging the champion.

Another political incident occurred in Manila during the 1962 world cagefest. The Philippine government, under then President Diosdado Macapagal, refused to grant entry visas to the teams from socialist countries. Former BAP president Ambrosio Padilla made a hasty trip to the Fiba headquarters in Munich in a bid to save the championship but the best he could get was an authorization to conduct an invitational tournament.



Healthy McGrady, Yao boost Rockets

MCGRADY

NEW YORK—TRACY MCGRADY says Chinese center Yao Ming has come of age as an NBA player and expects the two of them to make this a big year for the Houston Rockets.

McGrady played in only 47 games last season because of a back injury, and Yao missed time with a toe injury, but when the dynamic duo were on court together the Rockets were 21-10.

"We were unbelievable," McGrady told reporters on Wednesday at a news conference to launch the NBA LIVE 07 video game.

The problem for Houston was the long stretch of games when they were not on court together, going 13-38 for an overall record of 34-48.

McGrady said he was healthy and raring to go, just like Yao, whom he saw recently during an Asian tour to promote his new sports shoe.

"He's great, strong. He's in great shape. His body fat is unbelievable. This is going to be a really interesting season."

McGrady, who averaged 24.4 points to 22.3 for Yao, said there might be a silver lining to missing nearly half a season through injury.

"I think it gave Yao the opportunity to progress and gain more confidence in his ability to lead a team," the high-scoring swingman said.

"I think me being out was a good thing for Yao. It was kind of like the Grant Hill situation for me. When I first came to Orlando, Grant Hill wasn't healthy and it gave me the opportunity to blossom into the player that I am.

"I think he's ready," McGrady said about the big center, who at 26 is one year younger than him. "With the two of us out there on the basketball court healthy, anything is possible for us. I really feel we can be one of the elite teams in our conference."

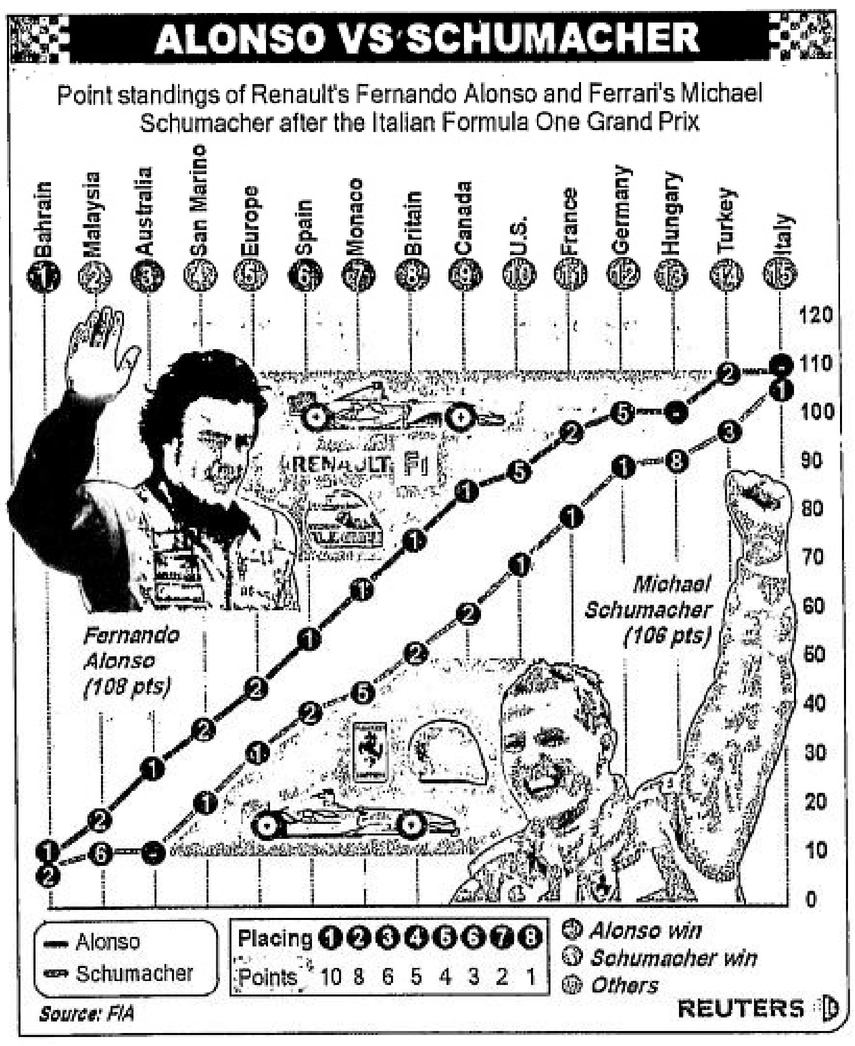
McGrady said they had a special chemistry.

"The thing about myself and Yao is we're very unselfish players. I don't care about him getting 30 or 40 points and I just get 15. As long as I win. This year I would defer more to him because I think he's ready to take on a bigger role."

Reuters

ALONSO VS SCHUMACHER

Point standings of Renault's Fernando Alonso and Ferrari's Michael Schumacher after the Italian Formula One Grand Prix



Source: FIA

REUTERS

Alonso-Schu duel heats up

SHANGHAI, CHINA—THE DUEL BETWEEN Fernando Alonso and Michael Schumacher is heating up both on and off the track entering this weekend's Chinese Grand Prix in Shanghai, the third-to-last race of the most closely contested season in years.

In his final season, Schumacher, the seven-time Formula One champion, has narrowed defending champion Alonso's lead in the driver standings to just two points, 108-106.

Six races ago, Alonso led by 25 points after winning six of the first nine races of the season. Since then, he hasn't won any and Schumacher has won four.

The competition got even hotter after Schumacher announced his retirement following victory earlier this month in the last race before Shanghai, the Italian GP. Alonso went out with an overheated engine.

In the days after the race, Alonso broadened the growing rift between him and Schumacher when he told a Spanish radio station that the German "is the man with the most sanctions and the most unsporting driver in the history of Formula One."

SPORTSWATCH

Keglers, karatekas in Scoop

THE MEN'S BOWLING TEAM AND THE RP KARATE-do squad to the 15th Asian Games in Doha, Qatar, grace today's SCOOP sa Kamayan session in Padre Faura, Manila. Legendary Paeng Nepomuceno banners the bowlers with reigning World Masters titlist Biboy Rivera, CJ Suarez, Markwin Tee, Chester King, Tyrone Ongpauco and coaches Caloy de Leon, Norman Gonzales, Gene Tonolete, Angelo Constantino and Philippine Bowling Congress management committee chair Bong Coo. Karate will be represented by Nationals Gretchen Malalad, Mae Soriano, Marna Pabilore, Junel Perana, Nelson Pacalso, Bern Chiu, Bong Toribio, Noel Espinosa and Philippine Karate Federation president Ed Ponce.

Valle gains main draw

GANDY VALLE GETS ANOTHER CHANCE TO FINALLY win a national title after earning a free ticket to the main draw of the 2006 San Miguel Philippine 9-Ball Open. The 32-year-old from Davao will take the place of last year's semifinalist Mario Tolentino. Tolentino begged off from the event organized by Solar Sports because of prior commitment overseas. "We picked Gandy to replace Mario because he has the best record among the non-seeded players," said Fil-9 project head Eric Centeno. Valle will join 11 other seeded players in the 32-man finals slated on Oct. 12-14. Heading the field is reigning titlist "Django" Bustamante.

Bigtime derby at PCC

RAIN OR SHINE, ALL SYSTEMS ARE GO TODAY for the Bigtime Labanan 5-stag derby at the Pasay City Cockpit with 94 fights on tap beginning at 3 p.m. Sagupaan Complexor 3000 is major sponsor. The event will be hosted by the Pasay Cockpit Cockers Association, according to pit managers Eric dela Rosa, Butchoy Olano and Roming Vergara. Call 843-1890, 843-1746 and 816-6750.

Stag Festival Sept. 30

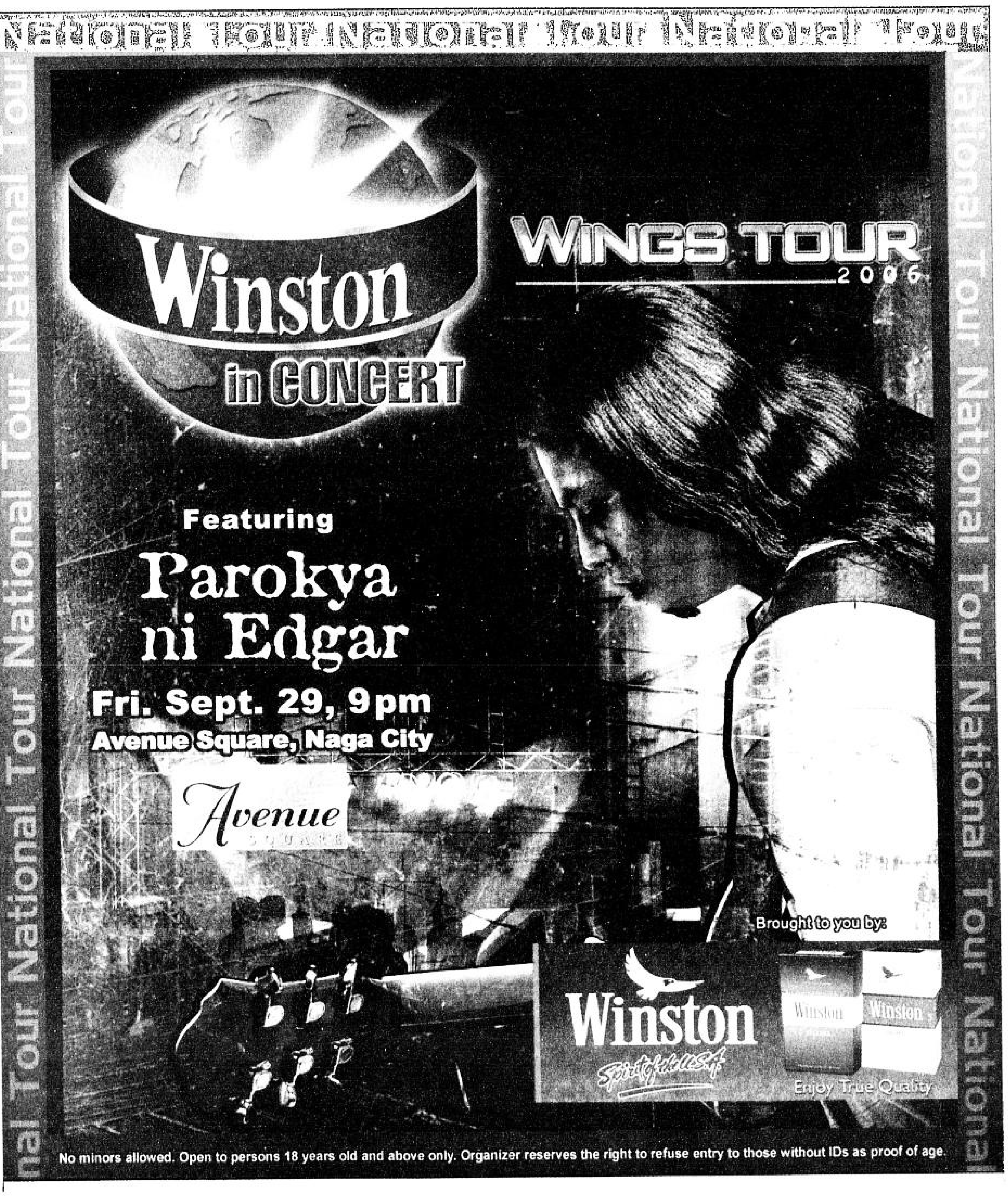
DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER CAUSED BY TYphoon Milenyo, the second round of Stag Festival 5-stag derby was reset for tomorrow at the Roligon Mega Cockpit. Participants must submit entries today at Roligon office, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and may call 851-2275; 833-1638 and 852-9812 for details. More than 80 fights will be held tomorrow beginning at 4 p.m., said host Rolly Ligon who put up a guaranteed prize of P1.5 million.

LGBA derby Round 3

MORE THAN 130 FIGHTS WILL SPICE UP THE third round of the Luzon Gamecock Breeders Association (LGBA) 5-stag derby series today at Araneta Coliseum. The first fight unfolds at 11 a.m. Sponsors are B- Meg Derby Ace, Gran Matador, Purina, Thunderbird, Asvet and Lakpue Drug Inc. The Agworld entry of Ramon Cruz topped the second round last Wednesday after posting five wins in as many fights. The first round last Monday produced seven winners: Jun Manguera (Virjun), Benny Lim (Sangre Guerrero), Jimmy Zapanta (Jet Z), Dalwin Yulangco and Allan Cong (Angel Ace Supreme), Chris and Dexter Tiu (DNc Kaibigan), Michael Sollestre (Kawayan Knights) and Jess de Veyra (BBC Dynasty).

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Tri)—Magic Bullet (1), Golden Africa (3), High Riser/Ikaw Lamang (2)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Hear Me (4), Sweet Connections (5), Lucky Joe (7), Good Landing/Earl Gray (1)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Nitty Grityy (6), Extreme Romance (3), Xangle's Halo (1), China Girl (5)
Race 4—(Qrt/Tri)—Earth Angel (4), Habagat (6), Express Strike (2), Heart of the Wind (7)
Race 5—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Courage Heart (8), Archer (9), Yankee Clipper (3), Mika's Pride (6), Expediter (7), Guided Missile (5)
Race 6—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Thor Patria (8), Angle of Light (2), Teresina (5), Bull Rider (1), RD Special (3)
Race 7—(Qrt/Tri)—Pacman (2), rivendel (1), Hard To Find (4), U Are My Sunshine (6)
Race 8—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Lovable Trisha/Gutsy (2), Golden Issue (5), Summit Force (1), Red Anya (6), Ikaw Pag-Asa Ko (8)
Race 9—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Graceful Conqueror (9), Lucky Strike 97), Ingay Ingay (3), Hard way (55), Ravishing Ruffy (4), Wings to Fly (10)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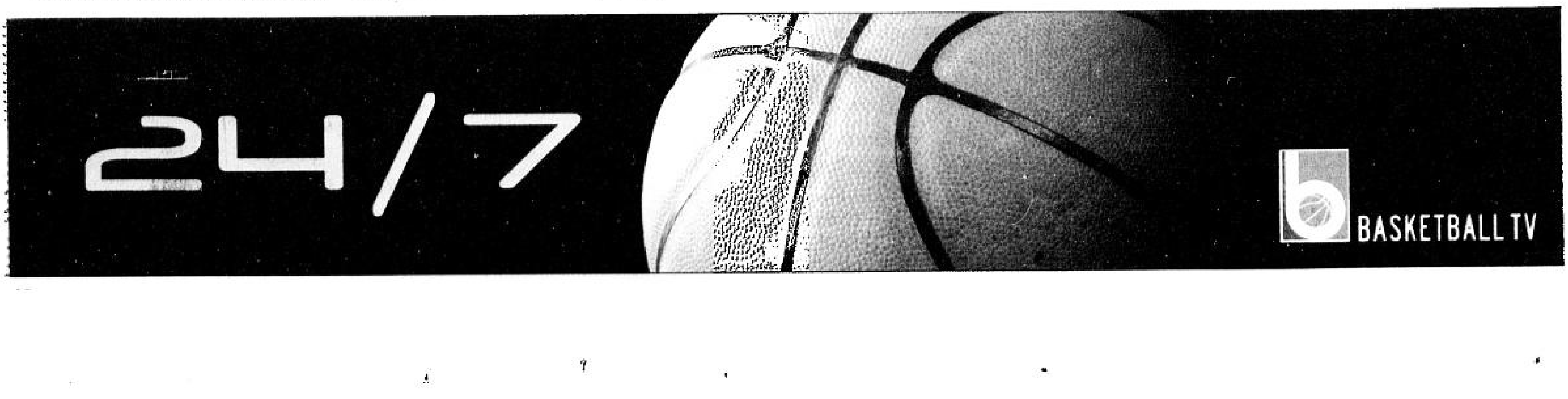
24/7
BASKETBALL TV

Alcano downs Chamat; Pagulayan yields title

GANDY Valle

FORMER AZBILLIARDS ROOKIE OF THE Year Ronato Alcano edged 2005 World Summit of Pool champion Marcus Chamat of Holland, 11-10, in the third round of the winner's bracket of the 2006 US Open 9-Ball championships Wednesday at the Chesapeake Conference Center in Chesapeake, Virginia.

Defending champion Alex Pagulayan wasn't as lucky, however. He suffered his second loss at the hands of Steve Moore, 9-11, in the loser's bracket and bowed out with fellow Canada-based Filipino Edwin Montal. Montal yielded to Pwetrie Makkonen, also 9-11.

The 34-year-old Alcano will next face Joey Testa, who bested Filipino pool legend Jose "Amang" Parica, 11-7, in the next round.

Rodolfo "Boy Samson" Luat also posted his third straight win at the expense of Rob Brandenburg, 11-7. He'll next face Frankie Hernandez, who beat Robert Otto, 11-10.

Lee Van Corteza and Santos Sambajon will face Mika Immonen of Finland and Charles Altomare of the United States in the third round of the winner's bracket, respectively.

Still in contention were Antonio Gabica, Gandy Valle, Ramon Mistica and Japan-based Ramil Gallego. They hurdled their respective matches in the one-loss side. Gabica trounced Sparky Ferrel, 11-5; Valle outplayed Craig Houten, 11-3; Mistica routed Ron Zampko, 11-1; and Gallego smashed Cary Dunn, 11-5.

"Chamat is a strong player, he's one of the favorites to win the US Open," said businessman Perry Mariano, Alcano's benefactor. "It's a good thing Ronnie won." *Marlon Bernardino*

8 RP pugs bound for Finland meet

By Dennis U. Eroa
Libre sports editor

EIGHT FILIPINO BOXERS IN HOT PURSUIT of berths to the Doha Asian Games will be tested as they see action in the tough Tammer Cup slated Oct. 17-22 in Tampere, Finland.

Manny T. Lopez, president of the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines, said the annual event will mark the end of the tedious elimination process for members of the national team bidding to regain glory in the quadrennial Games in December.

Leading the country's bid in the event featuring the best boxers from Europe and Asia are light flyweight Harry Tañamor, flyweight Violito Payla, bantamweight Joan Tipon, lightweight Genebert Basadre, light welterweight Delfin Boholst, featherweight Anthony Marcial, welterweight Willy Lopez and middleweight Francis Joven.

"The Tammer Cup plays a crucial role in the selection process," said Lopez. "The coaching staff headed by Pat Gaspi is going to personally monitor our boxers to make sure that we're sending the best boxers to Doha."

Gaspi and his deputy Ronald Chavez and international judge/referee Doy Vidal will accompany the Nationals to the championships.

Lopez said ABAP is looking at sending a minimum of six and a maximum of eight boxers to the Asiad. He earlier promised that the boxers will not go home medal-empty although he did not give any prediction when asked about the country's medal chances.

Since the 1951 New Delhi Asian Games, the country had won 12 gold medals. The country's most productive effort came during the 1954 Manila Asiad where Alejandro Ortouste, Celedonio Espinosa, Ernesto Porto, Ernesto Sajo and Vicente Tunacao won gold medals.

In the 1994 Hiroshima Asiad, light flyweight Mansueto "Onyok" Velasco, flyweight Elias Recaido and light welterweight Reynaldo Galido emerged triumphant.

FILIPINO CHALLENGER: Glenn Donaire of the Philippines, seen in a mirror's reflection, shadow boxes in training for his title fight against IBF and IBO flyweight titlist Vic Darchinyan on Oct. 7 in Las Vegas. AP

Gomez eyes world junior chess crown

NATIONAL MASTER JOHN PAUL GOMEZ IS scheduled to leave the country last night to represent the country in the 2006 World Junior Chess Championship on Oct. 2-17 in Yerevan, Armenia.

The 20-year-old mechanical engineering student at DLSU-Taft is seeing action in the FIDE-rated event for the second time.

Gomez finished tied for 18th-30th places in the 2001 edition won by Hungarian GM Peter Acs in Perestes, Greece.

"For flag and country I will do my very best," said Gomez when he paid a courtesy call on National Chess Federation of the Philippines president and Surigao del Sur Representative Prospero "Butch" Pichay Jr. late Wednesday.

Gomez will be accompanied by International Master Oliver Dimakiling, who'll serve as his second/trainer.

"These young players just need the right breaks and international exposures to get their GM titles," said Pichay, who is supporting the European trip of Gomez and Dimakiling.

In the recent 2006 Malaysian Open, Dimakiling finished in a tie for first with eventual champion Vietnamese GM Dao Thien Hai en route to his first GM result. Gomez obtained an IM result in the same tournament.

After the World Junior, Gomez and Dimakiling will compete in the III Calvia Chess Festival in Calvia, Spain, on Oct. 20-29. They will be joined there by whiz kid IM-elect Wesley So and IM Darwin Laylo.

Also scheduled for the quartet are the 2006 Offene Internationale Bayerishe Schuch Meisterschaft in Bad Wiessee, Germany, on Nov. 4-12. *NM Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

CHESS MOVERS: National Chess Federation of the Philippines president and Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero "Butch" Pichay Jr. (right) appoints Danny Lopez as NCFP provincial coordinator in Nueva Ecija recently at the Batasan Complex in Quezon City. Lopez, in close cooperation with Cong. Pichay and Nueva Ecija Provincial Fire Marshall Major Artemio M. Llena successfully, staged the 2006 Araw ng Nueva Ecija Chess Team Tournament at the Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology in Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija recently.

Marquez manager says Jaca a tough, difficult opponent

THE MANAGER OF WBO INTERIM FEATHERWEIGHT champ Juan Manuel Marquez believes Filipino Jimrex Jaca is going to be a "top level, difficult opponent."

The 23-year-old Jaca will attempt to become the only Filipino world title holder when he challenges Marquez on Oct. 21 at the Don Haskins Center in El Paso, Texas.

Ignacio Beristain, who trains and manages Marquez, said Jaca will pose a difficult fight owing to his southpaw stance and his ability to move constantly on the ring.

Beristain also noted that Jaca punches with a high accuracy rate, although he is confident his ward will be able to solve Jaca's style.

"Juan Manuel has been touring across the US to promote his fight with Jaca, but his promoter Oscar De la Hoya has made sure we are treated well and able to do the workouts," Beristain said.

Marquez (45-3-1, 34 KO's) gained notoriety among Filipino fight fans after he survived three knockdowns in the first round scored by Manny Pacquiao in 2004, and went on to earn a draw by outboxing the Filipino icon in the later rounds.

The power-hitting Jaca (27-2-1, 12 KO's), nicknamed "The Executioner" is a protege of Cebu boxing manager Rex "Wakee" Salud.

"I am not fazed by the reputation of Marquez," said Jaca. "Many people have given me a very slight chance of beating him. But reputation is nothing. When we meet, it will only be the two of us. His reputation can't help him."

The Marquez bout will be Jaca's second appearance in the US, following his impressive debut last Jan. 21 underneath the Manny Pacquiao-Erik Morales showdown. *Salven L. Lagumbay, contributor*

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Canlas elected to Fiba council

THE COUNTRY'S MASTER IN SPORTS medicine, Dr. Jose Raul Canlas, has been reelected as one of the members of the FIBA Medical Council during the 18th FIBA World Congress in Tokyo, Japan, recently.

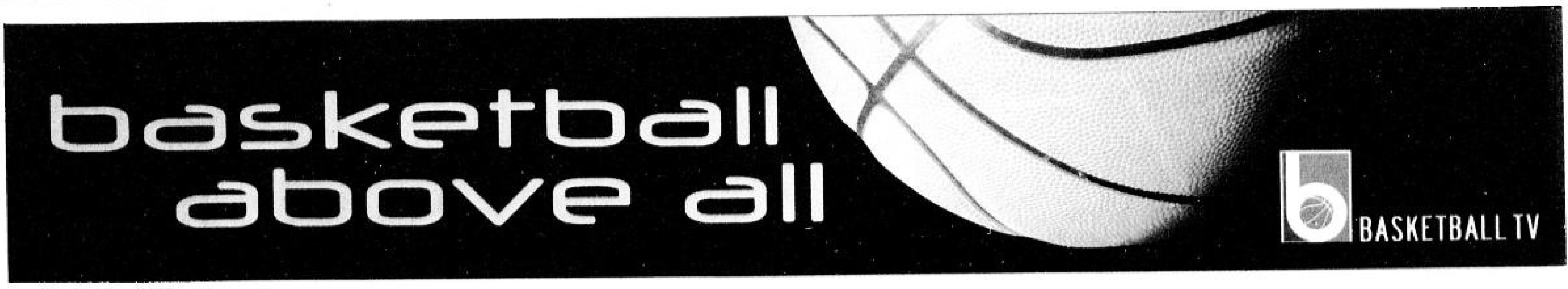
Dr. Canlas, who was first installed into the position in 1998, is currently the chair of the Philippine Sports Medicine Commission. For years, he has dedicated his profession to the treatment and rehabilitation of national athletes.

During his first term, Canlas played a vital role in the decisions of the FIBA Medical Council on dope testing and steroid use-related cases.

His election put the Philippines in the map of world basketball, coming out from a long list of nominees from the 212 Fiba members and pivoted by the strong endorsement from the Basketball Association of the Philippines.

After receiving the communiqué from FIBA Secretary General Patrick Baumann on his election, BAP secretary general Graham Lim sent a congratulatory message to Dr. Canlas, also the chair of the BAP Medical Commission.

Dr. Canlas will serve his third term from 2006-2010.



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2006

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200 delinquent cases in line for tax cuts

Liabilities subject to compromise total P12B

By Michelle V. Remo

OVER 200 CASES OF TAX DELINQUENCY ARE IN line for a compromise settlement where their liabilities to the government are expected to be reduced, according to the Bureau of of Internal Revenue.

In a presentation before the Senate committee on ways and means last Wednesday, Revenue Commissioner Jose Mario Buñag said that the Bureau of of Internal Revenue has approved a total of 209 cases where taxes may be reduced.

The BIR said the tax liabilities that are subject for compromise amount to P12.34 billion. These tax liabilities cover the period 2002 to August 2006, Buñag said.

The amount of tax to be reduced, however, is yet to be determined.

But Buñag said that so far, the BIR has already agreed to forego the collection of some P226.6 million worth of taxes.

By agreeing to the tax cuts, the BIR may now settle some of the delinquent cases and increase revenue collection at the same time.

200 DELINQUENT/ B4

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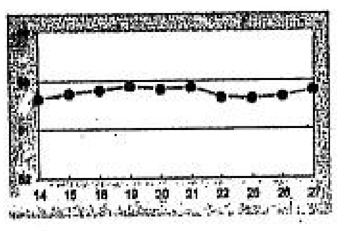
INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



SEPTEMBER

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 50.21 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Sept. 27, 2006

¥ 117.66 = $ 1

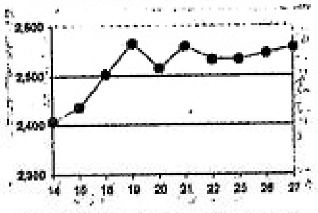
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 28, 2006

GOLD: $603.50-605.00

per ounce Hong Kong, Sept. 28, 2006

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Trading canceled

THE AUTHORITIES YESTERDAY CANceled currency trading and shuttered the stock market as typhoon Milenyo lashed the capital.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco yesterday told reporters via a mobile text message that there would be no peso trading.

Also, the Philippine Stock Exchange issued a statement saying the market would also be closed.

Reuters

Roadblocks frustrate Malaysian investors in RP

By Daxim L. Lucas

(First of two parts)

ON A PROVINCIAL HIGHWAY 40 kilometers outside the Malaysian capital, Mohamed Shukor proudly showed off his company's handiwork to guests from the media.

The general manager of Malaysian listed firm MTD Construction Berhad had good reason to be proud. The six-lane toll highway looks every bit like having been made in Europe instead of Southeast Asia.

"Our projects are built according to the highest international standards, similar to what you can find in the US and Europe," he said, pointing to the delicate twists and turns along the 60-kilometer Kuala Lumpur-Karak highway that meanders through mountain passes carved out of solid granite.

Not a single bump can be felt or crack seen on the pavement despite the highway being used heavily by provincial buses and trailer trucks.

"We invest heavily in maintenance to keep this very high standard," Shukor added.

A guided tour at other highway

ROADBLOCKS/ B4

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Asian energy stocks up

Mining shares lifted by gains in gold, other products

SINGAPORE—ASIAN OIL STOCKS SUCH AS Japan's Inpex Holdings yesterday rose after crude prices leapt on worries producer cartel Opec might cut output, while miners were lifted by gains in gold and other commodities.

Benchmark US crude futures climbed to around $63 a barrel, while gold, which often tracks oil as higher energy costs boost its appeal as a hedge against inflation, traded around $600 an ounce for the first time in more than two weeks.

"Prices have gone up because the market was oversold," said Tetsu Emori, chief commodities strategist at Mitsui Bussan Futures. "People are getting worried about prices looking too cheap and that Opec could step in." Shares in Japanese oil and gas developer Inpex rose 1.7 percent and oil refiner and copper smelter Nippon Mining Holdings Inc. rose 0.7 percent. Chinese offshore oil producer CNOOC Ltd rose 1.4 percent and rival PetroChina Co. Ltd. gained 1.5 percent.

The dollar ticked up versus the yen but edged down against the euro as traders looked to upcoming data to gauge whether the next move on interest rates by the Federal Reserve would be a cut.

Tokyo's Nikkei rose 0.5 percent to close above 16,000 for the first time since Sept. 8, with property and financial stocks also in demand.

"Shares of real estate firms, banks and trading companies—stocks that are sensitive to economic cycles—have rebounded ... as investors have become more positive about the outlook for the US economy," said Nagayuki Yamagishi, a strategist at Mitsubishi UFJ Securities.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan was 0.2 percent higher.

Australia's S&P ASX 200, which posted its biggest one-day percentage gain in 3 1/2 years on Wednesday, rose 0.4 percent to its highest close in more than three weeks, with gold miner Newcrest Mining up 2.2 percent and rival Lihir Gold up 1.4 percent.

South Korea's Kospi rose 0.8 percent, boosted by gains in chip makers such as Hynix Semiconductors Inc. on expectations of higher memory chip prices.

Taiwan's benchmark index fell 0.9 percent. Hong Kong's Hang Seng rose 0.2 percent by the mid-session break, when Singapore's Straits Times was up 0.1 percent.

United States economic data had been mixed, but overall had bolstered the dollar, traders said.

Figures released on Wednesday showed that sales of new homes unexpectedly rose in August after July sales came in much weaker than first thought, while new orders for durable goods declined.

"Data this week has shown that while the US economy is slowing, it's not cooling enough to warrant a rate cut just yet," said a trader at a US brokerage.

Upcoming economic reports, including a final reading for second-quarter growth on Thursday and a key inflation report on Friday, may give the dollar a clearer direction and provide more clues to investors about the course for US rates.

Reuters

PRCI seen taking over JTH Davies for P449M

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

PUBLICLY-LISTED RACETRACK OPerator Philippine Racing Club Inc. (PRCI) said it had agreed to take over holding firm JTH Davies Holdings Inc.

PRCI said in a disclosure yesterday that it would acquire 95.55 percent of the 41.93 million shares of JTH Davies from Dutch firm Jardine Matheson Europe B.V. for about P449.2 million.

JTH Davies has interests in agricultural chemicals and industrial materials distribution and real estate development.

Documents filed with the Philippine Stock Exchange showed that Jardine Matheson Europe was listed as JTH Davies' largest stockholder with 95.5 percent as of June 30 this year.

JTH said the deal was expected to be finalized not later than Dec. 11, 2006, when all the terms and conditions of the transactions were expected to be fully complied with.

These include the completion of a mandatory tender offer to be made by PRCI to shareholders of JTH.

JTH last traded on Sept. 1 and closed at P16 a piece.

INQUIRER computations showed that the JTH shares would be acquired at P10.71 per share.

PRCI officials declined to make a comment on the deal pending additional disclosures next week.

JTH Davies is one the oldest holding firms in the country.

PRCI operates the Sta. Ana Park race track in Makati and manages betting stations nationwide.

DBS upbeat on RP fiscal progress

By Doris C. Dumlao

DEVELOPMENT BANK OF SINGAPORE IS bullish on the Philippines' fiscal progress but not as upbeat on the country's economic prospects for the rest of this year and next year in view of the waning global demand for electronics products.

In its economics markets strategy report dated Sept. 22, Singapore's biggest bank said: "The excitement in the Philippines comes not from growth but from the progress being made on the fiscal front."

On the macroeconomic side, the bank said export growth in the country was peaking in line with the global electronics upswing and stable rise in domestic demand.

"The country latched on to the global electronics upswing only at the tailend of the electronics cycle and by the end of the year, we expect the party to be well and truly over," the bank said.

DBS upgraded its 2006 growth forecast for the country to 5.3 percent from 5.1 percent but said it did not expect growth to pick up any faster next year. It projected the country's gross domestic product to grow by 5.3 percent next year.

Aside from the cooling of the global demand cycle, DBS added that consumer spending would likely remain benign over the second half of 2006 as consumers continue to adjust to the expanded value-added tax.

"Political shocks are always possible with the prospects of Charter change and general elections next year," DBS said, noting however, that overseas Filipino workers' remittances should remain firm with fresh job opportunities opened up by various agreements with Japan and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

DBS also said the outlook for investments next year looked brighter, partly due to a likely pick-up in government spending.

But on the fiscal front, DBS said an upward revision in the country's credit outlook or even a ratings upgrade was possible soon, with the government's budget deficit likely to fall below the official target of P125 billion or 2.1 percent of GDP. It added that the targeted deficit to GDP ratio of 0.9 percent also appeared attainable but noted that compromises remained possible with lawmakers looking to avoid a reenactment of the budget for yet another year.

The bank also noted that with the elections in May, there was temptation for populist spending.

"However looking at previous election years, it is difficult to conclusively say that elections consistently provide a boost to either budget or government consumption," DBS said.

Privatization efforts were also expected to boost revenues over the medium to long term.

"At worst, this should mitigate any disappointments on the growth front, and at best will make the Arroyo administration's aim of balancing the budget two years ahead of schedule in 2008 more achievable," DBS said.

Given the fiscal outlook, DBS said an upgrade in the country's credit outlook and maybe even a ratings lift was a "distinct possibility."

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 27, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.5	5.7	5.4	5.7	87,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	38.5	40	38.5	40	951,400
Bank of the Phil. Islands	59	59	58.5	58.5	1,993,200
China Banking Corp.	690	690	685	685	2,320
Citystate Savings Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	400
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.42	0.42	0.4	0.4	15,030,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	75.5	76	75	75.5	6,122,200
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	40.5	41	40	41	514,600
Philippine National Bank	33.5	33.5	33	33	7,700
Phil. Savings Bank	43	43	43	43	2,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	18	18.25	18	18.25	20,500
Security Bank Corp.	51.5	51.5	51	51.5	200,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	44.5	45	44.5	45	12,400
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Bankard Inc.	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.64	10,000
Citiseconline.Com Inc.	3.75	3.8	3.75	3.8	232,000
First Abacus Financial	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	50,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	10,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1635	1635	1610	1610	380
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.04	1.1	1.04	1.08	1,450,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2080	2085	2065	2085	1,280
Ivantage Corp.	1.38	1.4	1.38	1.4	865,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	49	49	49	49	765,400
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	49.5	50	49.5	50	2,003,300
Manila Electric Co. A	19.25	19.25	19.25	19.25	67,200
Manila Electric Co. B	29.5	29.5	29	29.5	464,600
Manila Water Co. Inc.	9.1	9.1	9	9	636,000
Petron Corp.	4.15	4.2	4.1	4.15	3,021,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	350,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.1	3.2	3.1	3.2	12,000
CADP Group Corp.	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	1,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23	23	22.5	22.75	84,200
Jollibee Foods Corp.	35	36	35	35.5	161,200
Pancake House Inc.	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	9,000
RFM Corp.	0.87	0.9	0.87	0.89	920,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	51,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.22	0.24	0.22	0.24	130,000
San Miguel Corp. A	65	65	64.5	65	55,100
San Miguel Corp. B	74.5	76	74.5	76	165,100
Universal Robina Corp.	18	18.25	18	18	18,218,600
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.29	1,000,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.78	1.82	1.78	1.82	2,495,000
Holcim Philippines, Inc.	5	5	4.9	4.9	637,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	18,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	26,000
CHEMICALS					
Corro-Coat Inc.	4	4.2	3.9	4.05	3,492,000
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	10,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.59	0.61	0.58	0.59	141,200,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.145	0.15	0.145	0.145	5,980,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Asia Amalgamated Holdings	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	250,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0075	0.0075	0.007	0.007	47,000,000
Ayala Corp.	475	477.5	472.5	475	267,730
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	100,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.2	295,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.027	0.027	0.026	0.026	22,300,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2	2.04	2	2.04	2,233,000
APC Group Inc.	0.245	0.245	0.24	0.24	590,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	12,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.92	0.93	0.92	0.93	650,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	3.3	3.35	3.15	3.15	242,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	1.08	1.08	1.06	1.08	120,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.26	1.28	1.26	1.28	8,999,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.75	3.8	3.75	3.75	3,863,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	2.8	2.8	2.65	2.65	2,144,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.28	1.36	1.28	1.32	2,109,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	6.1	6.1	5.9	6	2,820,000
Keppel Holdings	1	1	1	1	30,000
Medco Holdings	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	100,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	1.24	1.26	1.22	1.22	1,562,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	10,800,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.185	0.19	0.18	0.19	2,060,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.59	0.59	800,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	1,700,000
SM Investments Corp.	248	250	247	250	329,300
South China Resources Inc.	0.94	0.98	0.93	0.98	520,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	300,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	50,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	14.75	14.75	14.25	14.25	15,348,000
Belle Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	5,493,000
A Brown Co. Inc.	1	1.02	0.99	1.02	500,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	200,000
C&P Homes Inc.	1.2	1.48	1.2	1.48	50,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	200,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	6,300,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	500,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.51	0.55	0.51	0.54	53,280,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.98	1.1	0.98	1.06	1,360,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.56	1.64	1.56	1.64	48,786,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	10,000
Gotesco Land Inc. B	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	100,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.28	2.28	2.26	2.26	40,000
Interport Res.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	15,000,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.26	0.28	0.26	0.28	6,240,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.55	0.72	0.55	0.7	14,030,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	2,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.92	1.92	1.9	1.92	76,865,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.4	761,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	20,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.4	0.41	0.4	0.41	310,000
SM Development Corp.	1.82	1.84	1.82	1.84	1,216,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8.4	8.5	8.4	8.4	3,119,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	2,300,000
SERVICE					
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	16.5	16.5	16.25	16.5	69,900
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.24	1.28	1.24	1.28	1,470,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	1075	1085	1075	1080	38,500
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	4.6	4.65	4.6	4.65	5,602,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	2255	2275	2255	2270	430,690
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.185	0.195	0.185	0.195	400,000
Imperial Res.	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	5,000,000
Ionics Inc.	1.96	1.98	1.96	1.98	77,000
Ipvg Corp.	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	1,050,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	1,000,000
Ism Communications Corp.	0.0575	0.0575	0.0575	0.0575	6,000,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.14	1.2	1.14	1.2	186,000
Transpacific Broadband	1.36	1.38	1.36	1.38	240,000
Philweb Corp.	0.029	0.03	0.029	0.03	25,300,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals, Inc.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	750,000
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	12,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	16.5	17	16.5	16.75	502,200
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	2,100,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.98	2	1.98	2	4,058,000
Manila Jockey Club	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	10,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	300,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	150,000
EDUCATION					
Ipeople, Inc.	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Easycall Phils. Inc.-Com	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	5,000
Macroasia Corp.	2.08	2.12	2.06	2.06	2,620,000
Paxys Inc.	10.5	10.75	10.5	10.75	639,300
MINING & OIL					
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	6.2	6.4	5.9	6	2,795,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	6.4	6.4	5.9	6.1	1,100,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.011	60,700,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	8.2	8.3	8.2	8.2	362,000
Benguet Corp. A	10.75	10.75	10	10	69,200
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.25	0.26	0.24	0.245	7,360,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.27	8,580,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.023	0.023	0.022	0.022	68,800,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	63,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.011	283,300,000
Philex Mining Corp.	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.7	4,719,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	18.75	20.5	18.75	20.5	255,700
Vulcan Ind'l	0.58	0.59	0.57	0.59	370,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated, Inc.	0.28	0.31	0.28	0.3	19,590,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	13,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.011	58,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	1	1	0.98	1	1,070,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	1	1.02	1	1	550,000
PNOC Exploration Corp.-B	12	12	12	12	8,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	9.7	10.25	9.7	10	130,000

CURRENCIES

September 27, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.788084	1.000000	50.3870
Japan	Yen	0.006729	0.008538	0.4302
United Kingdom	Pound	1.492553	1.893900	95.4279
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.101205	0.128419	6.4706
Switzerland	Franc	0.633814	0.804246	40.5235
Canada	Dollar	0.707563	0.897827	45.2388
Singapore	Dollar	0.495869	0.629208	31.7039
Australia	Dollar	0.592233	0.751484	37.8650
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.090575	2.652731	133.6632
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.210151	0.266660	13.4362
Brunei	Dollar	0.494314	0.627235	31.6045
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000085	0.000108	0.0054
Thailand	Baht	0.021016	0.026667	1.3437
UAE	Dirham	0.214579	0.272279	13.7193
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.268900	63.9361
Argentina	Peso	0.254221	0.322581	16.2539
Brazil	Real	0.357814	0.454030	22.8772
Denmark	Kroner	0.134026	0.170065	8.5691
India	Rupee	0.017218	0.021848	1.1009
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.214212	0.271813	13.6958
Mexico	New Peso	0.071549	0.090789	4.5746
New Zealand	Dollar	0.525109	0.666311	33.5734
Norway	Kroner	0.120467	0.152861	7.7022
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013015	0.016515	0.8321
South Africa	Rand	0.102934	0.130613	6.5812
Korea	Won	0.000835	0.001059	0.0534
Sweden	Kroner	0.107402	0.136282	6.8668
Syria	Pound	0.015182	0.019264	0.9707
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023932	0.030367	1.5301
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000367	0.000466	0.0235

Rockwell jumps over to Sta. Elena

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

ROCKWELL LAND HAS BEEN TAPPED BY THE Sta. Elena Group to redevelop the residential and commercial districts of the upscale golf and country club resort in the rolling terrain of Cabuyao, Laguna.

The joint venture marks the first foray of the Lopez-owned Rockwell outside of the 15-hectare former Meralco power plant by the Pasig River, after completing a painful debt workout inflicted by the regional currency crisis a decade ago.

According to the grapevine, the memorandum of agreement was signed yesterday by the Lopezes and the Tantocos of Rustan's despite the howling winds and driving rains.

Rustan's owns 60 percent of the 260-hectare golf-centric subdivision, with 30 percent controlled by the family of landowner Bebo Quiroz, after whose mother, Elena Yulo of the sugar estate fame, the development has been named.

The remaining 10 percent is held by taipan Alfonso Yuchengco, who has had a long history of business collaboration with the Tantocos.

Rockwell Land president Nestor Padilla hesitated to disclose the financial terms of the joint venture when reached for comment, but did volunteer that Rockwell had been given wide latitude to review the master plan, including the lot sizes of the existing Sierra Madre and Banahaw villages.

"Off the cuff, the redevelopment costs would run between P1.5 billion and P2 billion," Padilla said. In addition to the possible tweaking of the housing lots, Rockwell's mandate includes the development of a 10-hectare retail center and the improvement of the community's road and drainage network.

Before Rockwell's entry, housing lots in Sta. Elena were selling from P8,100 to P10,900 a square meter for those with fairway frontage, less 20 percent for those who opt to pay in cash.

Sta. Elena adjoins the South Luzon Expressway off the Cabuyao exit, with the Asia Brewery plant of taipan Lucio Tan flanking it in the north.

The brewery's emissions, some suspect, contribute to the languorous, easy-going atmosphere pervading the suburban community of early retirees, *balikbayans,* golf addicts and their golf widows.

Billionaire affairs

THE BROADCASTER+BILLIONAIRE tale reported on Wednesday has been bubbling within the entertainment press for the past few months, and no less than the broadcaster and the billionaire's wife have talked and agreed to ignore the nasty rumors.

Given the persistence of the text attacks, the network itself has decided to step in, according to the grapevine, to offer both PR and personal advice to the broadcaster.

The broadcaster's husband, on the other hand, has also been made aware of a text brigade targeting his famous wife.

What is not clear is whether the billionaire, who comes from a *de buena familia,* has the slightest idea that his Rockwell outings with the broadcaster—always in the company of others—have been given a decidedly more intriguing, and no doubt circulation-boosting, spin.

Failure to connect

COCKTALES wishes to thank all the kind souls who offered advice on how to fix the computer glitch that nearly scuttled Wednesday's column.

The long and the short of it, which we discovered after we sought professional help, was that our Internet provider, pldtdsl, had been experiencing connection problems with Google and Mozilla Firefox.

Apparently, the connection failure had also affected certain parts of Cavite, according to one reader.

Happily, after two hours of diagnostic work and a phone call to PLDT, the connection problem was sorted out.

(Yesterday afternoon, despite Milenyo's lashing winds and pounding rains, the Internet connection worked splendidly well, even with the added aggravation of a metro-wide power outage.)

Cocktales belatedly discovered that had we switched to, say, Internet Explorer as Web browser during the problematic hours, it would have been business as usual and that there would have been no need for Wednesday's public display of disaffection and, worse, ignorance.

But, then again, that may be too much to expect from someone who came of age during the Woodstock years.

Heard through the grapevine

THERE is increasing industry chatter that the Tantoco siblings now running the aggressive Shopwise supermarket chain will take over their elder, up-scale market venture, Rustan's supermarket.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

SM group extends tender offer period

By Doris C. Dumlao and Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE SM GROUP HAS EXTENDED UP TO 12 noon today its offer to buy out shareholders of Equitable PCIBank at P92 per share.

The tender offer period was supposed to end yesterday, but SM Investments Corp. said it was extended to give those who were unable to participate due to inclement weather yesterday a chance to do so.

The company said the offer period would definitely end today whether or not trading would resume at the Philippine Stock Exchange.

The group of mall tycoon Henry Sy is expected to secure the majority control of Equitable PCIBank when the offer period ends today.

As of yesterday's tally of shareholders who accepted the SM group offer, INQUIRER sources said the SM group already had at least 51 percent, up from its original holdings of 34 percent.

"An official disclosure of the results will be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PSE immediately after the closing date of Oct. 2, 2006," SMIC said.

What remains to be seen is whether the SM group could raise its equity holdings to 67 percent, the dominant (as opposed to simple) majority needed to decisively effect a merger between EPCIBank and Banco de Oro Universal Bank. Sources said this was possible only if the state-owned pension fund Social Security System, which owns 29 percent of the bank, would accept the SM group offer.

SSS president Corazon de la Paz said the pension fund had not tendered its shares in EPCIBank as of yesterday. She declined to say whether the SSS would take part in the deal or await the resolution of a pending court case related to the sale of these shares.

"We haven't filed anything. Our office is closed today," De la Paz said yesterday.

The SSS has long wanted to resolve the issue of whether it was required to hold bidding whenever it wanted to sell assets in its investment portfolio or it could dispose of assets through negotiations when opportunity arises.

Earlier, she said the SSS would also have to test the valuation offer by going back to the market, especially since some other groups had expressed interest in buying out the SSS' stake as well.

De la Paz said that even if the SSS wanted to accept the SM Group offer, a clearance had to be sought from the Department of Justice on whether the pension fund could do so given pending lawsuits involving the sale of its shares in the bank.

The other day, the Government Service Insurance System had agreed to sell its 12.7-percent stake in EPCIBank to the SM group.

The EPCIBank board had also agreed to sell to SMIC the 10.8-percent stake in EPCIB controlled by EBC Investments Inc.

If the SSS would not be able to participate in the deal, it would remain as a minority stockholder in EPCIBank and hold the swing vote on the issue of merging the Sys' Banco de Oro and EPCIBank.

The SM group may have to shell out P44 billion if all other shareholders of EPCIBank would opt to sell out. The group intends to pay 10 percent of the total price at cross and settlement date on Oct. 2, another 10 percent on June 2, 2007, another 10 percent on Feb. 2, 2008 and the bulk of 70 percent on Oct. 2, 2008.

SMIC is also studying a number of options, such as floating bonds and issuing more shares, to raise fresh funds for the acquisition.

If computed against net present value, the SM group's offer is worth about P80 per share based on an assumed two-year bond yield of 8 percent.

A merger between EPCIBank and BDO will create the country's second biggest banking group with combined assets of P528.6 billion, next to Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.'s consolidated assets of P594 billion.

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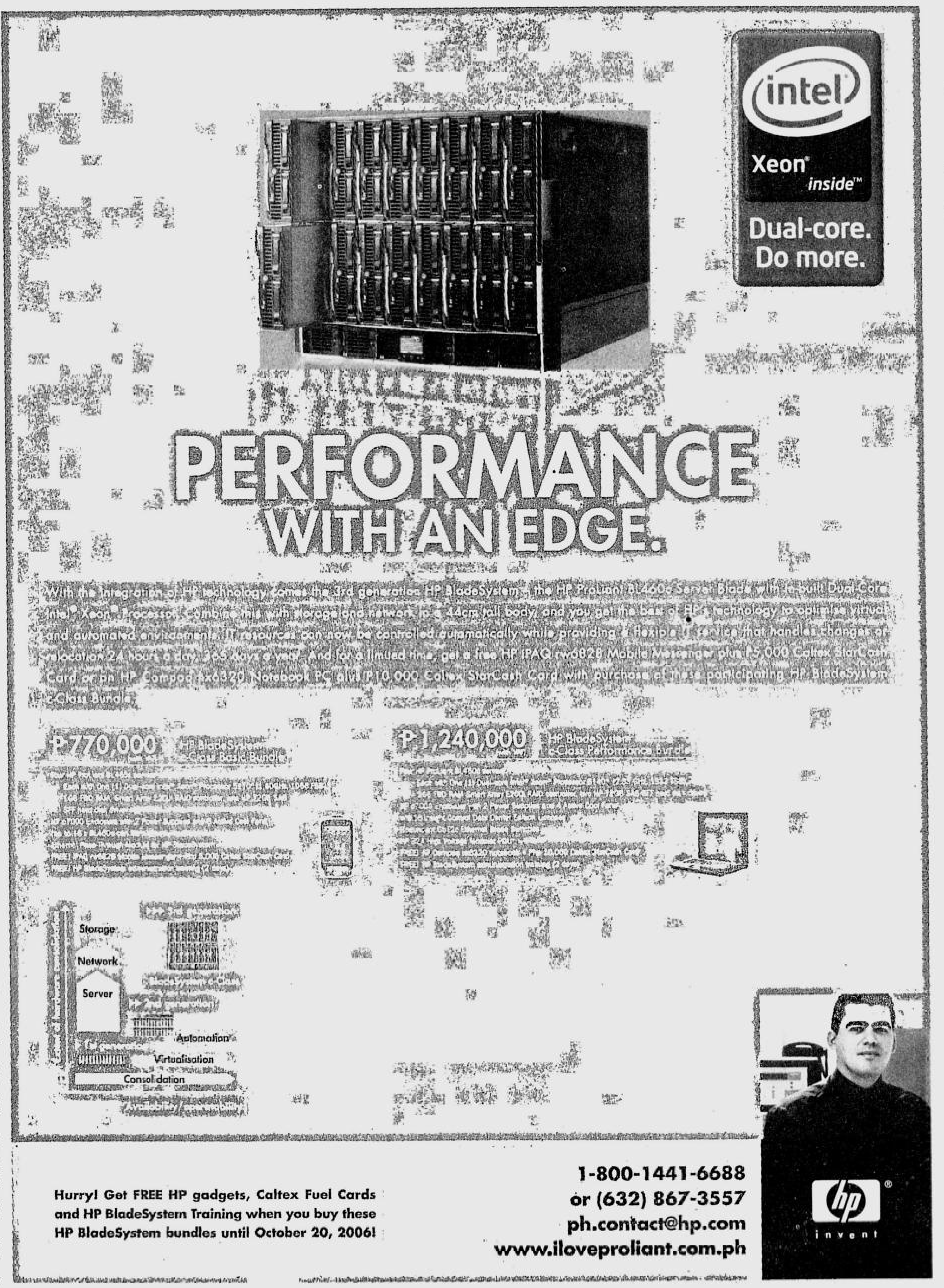

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After wiping out deficit, gov't aims to take on debts

Reducing P4T worth of debts will improve RP credit image

By Michelle V. Remo

AFTER IT HITS THE TARGET OF A ZERO budget deficit by 2008, the government will next work on the goal of reducing its close to P4 trillion worth of debts to a level that may be deemed "sustainable" to merit an improved credit image.

National Treasurer Omar Cruz told reporters that the government would not be loose on spending and adopt the policy of fiscal improvement, even after it achieves a budget surplus beyond 2008.

Cruz said the next target following the balancing of the national budget would be to reduce the government's debt to what credit-rating agencies consider as sustainable to be able to further boost investor confidence.

A "sustainable" level of debt is loosely defined by credit-rating firms as being equal to around 50 percent of a country's gross domestic product (GDP). In the case of the Philippines, the debts of its national government is about 70 percent of GDP.

As of June this year, the government's outstanding debt stock stood at P3.998 trillion. If divided among the country's population of about 85 million people, the share of each Filipino in the government's debt burden would be P47,041.

The latest figure was actually lower by 0.5 percent from the P4.017 trillion recorded as of end-May. The drop, however, did not mean the government had stopped borrowing but that the amount of liabilities it paid in June was higher than the amount it borrowed during the month.

A zero budget deficit means that the government would no longer need to borrow to finance its operations or implement programs and projects. What it would need to borrow is money to pay maturing obligations. With a budget surplus, the government will have resources, other than borrowings, to pay maturing liabilities.

Despite marked improvement in its fiscal condition, with its budget deficit declining since 2003, the government is still not able to convince rating agencies to upgrade the country's credit rating, which is several notches below investment grade.

Cruz said that the Philippines is on its way to making its debts sustainable. In 2008, when the deficit hits zero, the government's debt-to-GDP ratio would settle at 55 percent.

By 2010, Cruz said, the debt-to-GDP ratio is targeted to go as low as 43 percent.

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Summit spotlights infra, transport, energy

THE INTERCONNECTION of the Monumento station of LRT 1 with the North Edsa terminal of the MRT may yet see the light of day.

INQUIRER PHOTO

By Riza T. Olchondra

EXPERTS FROM THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE sector will discuss P1.711 trillion worth of projects touted to be competitiveness boosters at the Competitiveness Summit in Malacañang today.

The high-impact projects, including the proposed interconnection of the Monumento station of LRT1 with the North Edsa terminal of the MRT, were among those President Macapagal-Arroyo mentioned during her State of the Nation Address.

Recommendations on how the country can facilitate inter-island travel and bring down energy costs are also expected to be raised.

The World Bank recommends that governments invest no less than 5 percent of the country's annual gross domestic product (GDP) into such projects to be able to reach competitiveness goals. The Philippines invests about 3 percent of its GDP in relevant areas. As a result, the World Economic Forum gave the Philippines a ranking of 2.3 in infrastructure competitiveness, compared to Malaysia's 6.1 or Indonesia's 3.7. The highest mark is 7.

The difference is not lost on the government, according to a report from Secretary Arthur Yap, director general of the Presidential Management Staff and chairman of the Task Force on Infrastructure Monitoring. Starting this year, the government will invest 4.45 percent or P1.711 trillion in the 2006-2010 Medium-Term Public Investment Program.

Power and electrification projects under this program will be allotted 21.1 percent or P361.12 billion. Investments in water resources have been set at 14.64 percent or P250.49 billion; communications, 1.25 percent or P21.44 billion; social infrastructure, 9.6 percent or P164.32 billion; and agricultural support, 1.44 percent or P24.64 billion. All these developments are expected to ease travel and promote trade outside metropolitan areas, which would in turn boost productivity nationwide.

Without such initiatives in infrastructure, transport and energy, the country would never be able to grow the economy by more than 6 to 7 percent every year, said Philippine Chamber of Commerce president Ambassador Donald Dee.

"Productivity lost from traffic (jams), delayed contracts, volatile fuel prices and such are no longer quantifiable," Dee told the INQUIRER.

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200 delinquent . . .

From page B1

The BIR is the biggest revenue earner of the national government and is largely responsible for helping trim down the national government's budget deficit.

In the first eight months of the year, the BIR collected P438 billion in taxes, representing a P6.1-billion shortfall from the P444.1 billion target for the January-to-August period.

The BIR is tasked to collect a total of P675.4 billion this year, about 25 percent higher than the collection of the previous year.

According to some revenue officials, there are instances when it would be better for the BIR to enter into a compromise to collect unpaid taxes rather than go through the tedious and expensive process of filing tax evasion cases.

The agency's Run After Tax Evaders (RATE) program is still in effect.

Under the program, the BIR files tax evasion charges against high-profile individuals suspected of tax delinquency. The filing of cases, however, which used to be on a weekly basis, is now done irregularly.

The move of the agency under Buñag to reduce the liabilities of some tax delinquents was a shift from the BIR's previous policy of strictly running after tax evaders and charging them before the courts with the aim of discouraging the public from doing the same.

Hard-pressed to meet its tax collection goal for the year, the revenue agency is directed to adopt several measures to enhance tax collection efficiency.

These include the use of information from third-party sources, such as clients, to verify the accuracy of taxes remitted by corporate taxpayers. Another is the use of benchmarks in income generated by firms in an industry to see whether the income of a taxpayer was under-declared.

The BIR is also implementing the so-called "tax mapping," under which revenue personnel are sent to check on the level of tax compliance of business establishments, such as stalls in the malls. Usual violations detected under the tax mapping are non-issuance of receipts and failure to keep books of accounts.

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Roadblocks frustrate . . .

From page B1

facilities operated by the MTD Group—a construction conglomerate with four listed firms and a combined market capital of $700 million—reveal aspects of a first-class outfit whose employees take pride in being the best at what they do.

The company is the principal partner in South Luzon Tollways Corp. (SLTC), which won the P8.3-billion contract to rehabilitate the 1970s-era Alabang Viaduct and the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX) from Muntinlupa City to Calamba, Laguna.

Asked about his company's progress with its Philippine project, Shukor suppresses a smile and shakes his head ever so slightly.

Trouble is brewing.

According to MTD Capital's group managing director Dato Azmil Khalid, his company is the victim of the fact that it is Malaysian.

Speaking to Filipino reporters in the company's headquarters in Selangor, Azmil vented his frustration at being made to jump through hoops by Philippine authorities, many of whom are skeptical of MTD's ability to fund, finish and operate the 30-year SLEX tollway concession they won last year.

Fly-by-night

"Everyone is asking us if we are a fly-by-night company," Azmil said. "It's very frustrating. We are being penalized for the sins of other Malaysian firms in the past."

And if critics of Malaysian investors in the Philippines are to be believed, they have sins aplenty.

Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) president Reynaldo G. David agrees that Malaysian firms are suffering from an acute perception problem because of how many of their brethren conducted themselves in the previous decade.

"In the 1990s, you had to be fast to do business here," he said. "So many of them got local partners without [doing] enough due diligence."

David knows whence he speaks of as DBP is often approached by Filipino-Malaysian business partnerships to ask for funding support, especially for big-ticket infrastructure projects.

"At some point, it became a case of 'tell me who your friends are and I'll tell you who you are'," the DBP president said.

The string of bad news for Malaysian companies in the Philippines started in the early 1990s when the Supreme Court overturned the sale of the Manila Hotel to the Renong Group. The nullified deal left a bad taste in investors' mouths that was eventually aggravated by subsequent deals.

Apart from Renong Berhad, other Malaysian firms that came into the country—achieving limited or no success—were Wing Tiek and Hottick in National Steel Corp., the Westmont Group, Metroplex Berhad, the UEM Group, and most recently Ranhill Berhad, which tried and failed to acquire the Masinloc power plant from the government.

Unfortunately for a company like MTD, these high-profile corporate flops and scandals clouded the public's vision toward the actual benefits of doing business with the Philippines' southern neighbor.

Negative perception

According to the Department of Trade and Industry, the total value of trade between both countries has grown at an average of almost 11 percent annually since 1999.

The total value of trade last year is close to $4 billion, with more Philippine exports going to Malaysia than Malaysian imports coming in.

However, the negative perception created during the boom years of the 1990s has already taken its toll on the direct investments scene.

"The Philippines is one of the countries with the least investment in Malaysia, and vice versa," according to a statement posted on the DTI website. "It did not reach top ten investing countries in the Philippines, with less than one per cent of the total foreign investments in the span of five years."

MTD's Azmil said the negative perception has reached a point where his business partners and peers tried to dissuade him from leading another Malaysian firm into yet another foray into the Philippines.

"They thought I was crazy," he said.

If recent events are anything to go by, MTD's worries are far from over. And resistance to Malaysian investors—rightly or wrongly—will persist.

(to be concluded)

Ilocos Norte cooperative to pass on wind power savings

LAOAG CITY—THE ILOCOS NORTE ELECTric Cooperative will start issuing billing statements showing the discounted charges generated from buying wind power from the wind farm in Bangui town.

Inec general manager Romillas Pascual also directed the cooperative's member services department to produce information materials explaining where the amount saved from buying power from the Northwind Power Development Corp. went.

The power firm adopted the measures following allegations that Inec officials could not account for some P50 million in savings that the cooperative generated from buying wind power at a discount.

Inec and Northwind have signed an energy sales agreement under which the cooperative will buy power from the wind farm at 7 percent lower than what the National Power Corp. charges.

The wind farm can produce 24 megawatts of power or a third of Ilocos Norte's power requirement.

Inec's monitoring of power supply received from the wind farm showed that there were months when wind energy was either minimal or not available.

He said whatever savings Inec obtained from buying power supply from the wind farm automatically went to power consumers in the form of discounts.

Consumers are reportedly receiving a discount of at least 26 centavos a kilowatt-hour because of wind energy.

"We realize the need to reflect the discount so that the public may know," Pascual said, noting that the amount saved did not go to Inec's coffers.

Board Member Mariano Marcos II was earlier quoted as saying that Inec had not been transparent on its financial records concerning the savings it generated from buying wind power beginning last year.

Marcos had said Inec saved some P50 million out of sourcing its power supply from the power produced by Northwind.

Northwind chair Ferdinand said the wind farm would generate more power next year after the rehabilitation of the wind turbines.

He said broken cables connected to the turbines had been fixed and this would stabilize the operation of the wind farm.

Cristina Arzadon, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Swiss firm seen investing in Tampakan gold mine

Indophil expects venture with Xstrata

By Jeffrey M. Tupas and Allan A. Nawal
Inquirer Mindanao

DAVAO CITY—AUSTRALIAN-OWNED Indophil Resources, which operates the Tampakan copper and gold mine in South Cotabato, is optimistic that its partnership with Xstrata Plc, a global mining company based in Switzerland, would soon be finalized.

The Tampakan mines is touted to be the biggest underdeveloped copper and gold mine in Southeast Asia, with about 11.62 million tons of copper reserve and a gold deposit of about 14.56 million ounces.

Rolando Doria, project coordinator of Sagittarius Mines Inc. (SMI), said earlier that Indophil had given Brisbane-based MIM, now part of Xstrata, a right to secure a 62.5-percent stake in the Tampakan mines for $50 million.

Indophil managing director Tony Robbins said there seemed little doubt that Xstrata would be taking up the option.

"We are meeting with Xstrata on a regular basis and the body language has been good. At the end of the day, why wouldn't they? It's a great deposit and the entry fee is pretty small for a company of that size," Robbins said in a statement.

If the deal pushes through, Xstrata, which has interests in copper, gold, coal, vanadium and other mineral resources, will become the majority owner of the Tampakan mines.

Indophil will be left with 32.5 percent and Alsons Corp., 5 percent.

Indophil and Alsons own SMI.

Doria said Xstrata has until tomorrow to decide.

The Tampakan mines was projected to produce 200,000 tons of copper and more than 100,000 ounces of gold a year when full operations start in late 2010.

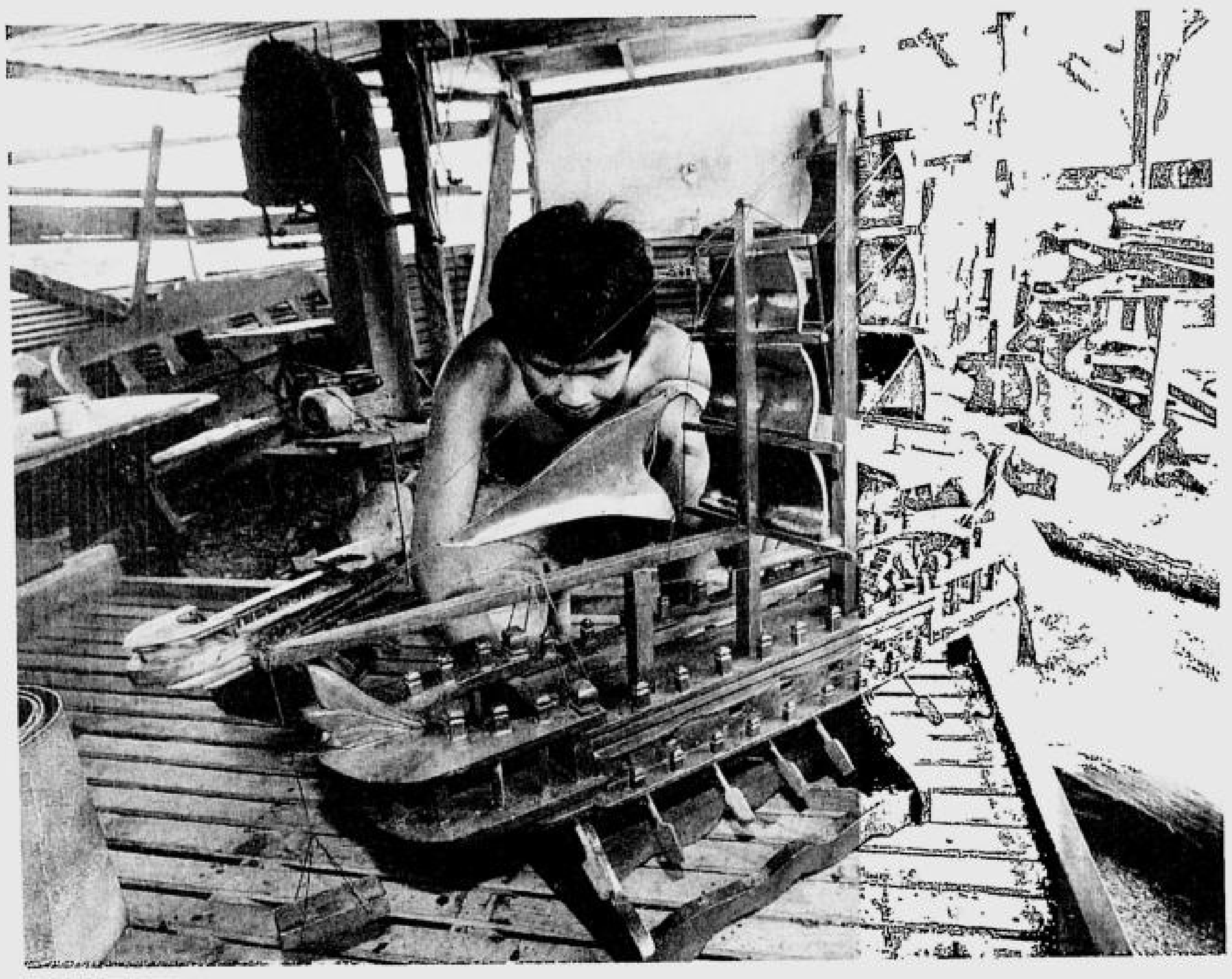
But as optimism about the deal preoccupies Indophil officials, an environmental alliance in Southern Mindanao said Xstrata's entry would increase the risk of the country's natural resources going to foreign consumption.

Paulo Dumayac, head of the secretariat of Panalipdan (Protect) Southern Mindanao, said the country has become a large drilling area for foreign capitalists, whose activities "only resulted in the destruction of the environment and dislocation of the people."

"The riches of Southern Mindanao and its neighboring regions are being dug and exported out of the country by big foreign corporations," Dumayac said.

Dumayac also hit the government for awarding mining rights to foreign companies.

"Instead of developing our own industry for mining, the government has rather allowed foreigners to explore and mine our riches," he said.



A WOOD CARVER inspects a wooden boat that he pieced together from excess lumber. The galleons cost about P2,500, depending on the size. TOOTS SOBERANO/ INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

PNOC to drill third well

SAN JUAN, SOUTHERN LEYTE—Philippine National Oil Co. (PNOC) is scheduled to drill its third geothermal exploratory well in this province next month.

"We hope that this third drilling operation will produce geothermal power," said Eduardo Mañalac, PNOC president and chief executive officer, during an inspection of the site last week.

The first drilling operation began in 1997 but was stopped that same year when it produced negative results.

Pressure from the heat emission of the well was too low, it was learned.

In 2003, PNOC resumed drilling and found geothermal power reserves that now produce four megawatts.

The drilling site at Cantayukdok, which straddles the towns of San Juan, Anahawan and Hinunangan, is expected to reach a bigger power source.

Mañalac said the exploration could yield at least 100 MW within the next 10 years. *Jani Arnaiz, Inquirer Visayas*

BCDA unit starts expansion of San Fernando airport

By Peter La. Julian
Inquirer Northern Luzon

SAN FERNANDO CITY—THE AIRPORT HERE, one of the major components of the Poro Point Special Economic and Freeport Zone, is being upgraded and expanded as a regional airport to accommodate large aircraft.

The upgrading of the airport started on Sept. 1 after the Poro Point Management Corp., a subsidiary of the Bases Conversion Development Authority, signed a P9.23-million contract with Schema Konsulta Inc. to prepare a detailed engineering design.

The consultancy and engineering firm is expected to complete the airport's design by December.

The firm is doing preparatory work, which includes a ground, soil testing and area survey.

PPMC president Felix Racadio said the BCDA would spend close to P500 million for the project.

Reports said that more than P100 million would be spent for the 2-kilometer extension and 45-meter widening of the airport's runway. The present runway is 1.2-km long and 36-m wide.

Among the facilities to be constructed are a modern control tower, terminal building and a fire station.

The existing terminal building and parking area will be improved and expanded.

Racadio said the San Fernando airport would provide vital infrastructure support to the existing and future tourism facilities in the PPSEFZ.

As a regional airport, it will accommodate commercial flights from neighboring Asian countries like Taiwan, China, Vietnam and Malaysia, he said.

The airport currently serves as an alternate to the Loakan Airport in Baguio City, more than 60 km from here.

Asian Spirit, with its two flights weekly, is the only commercial airline using the San Fernando airport, while student pilots from four flying schools based at the Clark Special Economic Zone land their aircraft here during test flights.

Yellow pages industry fight vs extinction

Directory publisher says industry can still survive

By Marlon Ramos
Inquirer Southern Luzon

TAGAYTAY CITY—WHEN WAS THE LAST time you used a telephone directory to look for the telephone number of your favorite restaurant? Or the contact number of a relative?

A long time ago, most probably.

That's because the advancement in telecommunications technology has affected the way Filipino households use directories, more known as the yellow pages.

This is also true in other countries.

But for Ricardo Bautista, president of the Directories Philippines Corp. (DPC), the country's only publisher of telephone directories, there is still hope for the yellow pages industry.

"This is a challenge for us. We just have to find ways of reaching out to our consumers and make a demand for the yellow pages," Bautista told the INQUIRER during the annual congress of the Association of Directories Publishers Inc. (ADPAI) held recently at the Taal Vista Hotel.

The yearly gathering of top executives of publishers of yellow pages books from all over the world served as a venue where ADPAI members shared their successes and the challenges they face in their respective countries.

Bautista said the emergence of new technologies like the Internet and the advancement in mobile telecommunications had posed serious threats to yellow pages printing.

He said that in the Philippines, being the so-called texting capital of the world, mobile phone technology had resulted in the reduced use of directories by the younger generation.

"The black telephone used to be the center of the Filipino household some 15 or 20 years ago. Beside it is the directory. But with the short messaging service, the use of the directory has decreased," Bautista lamented.

"Now, with millions of Filipinos having cellular phones, they just text their relatives and save contact numbers on cellphones," he added.

But despite this, it does not mean that the yellow pages publishing has become a sunset industry, he argued.

Bautista, who is also ADPAI president, said directory publishers had in fact used the new technologies to their advantage by providing online directory and even text messaging services.

He said ADPAI members in Hong Kong and India had already duplicated the success of their counterparts in the United States by providing directory via the Internet.

He said that in 2004, the DPC also created a website where users can easily access the contact numbers of establishments and households that they are looking for.

"Last year, we also launched the directory via short message sending," he said. "But the effects will be felt in a few more years."

Bautista said he was confident that revenues from their online and text services would eventually equal the profits from printing directory books.

Republic of the Philippines
ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT
Pilar St., Zamboanga City

SECTION I. INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT**, through its **Bids and Awards Committee II (BAC II)**, invites contractors registered with and classified by the **Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB)** to apply for Eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project: Well Construction for Proposed Vitali-1 (Taloptap) Production Well
Location: Vitali, Zamboanga City
Brief Description: Well Construction for Proposed Vitali-1 Production Well to Include Well Exploration & Well Development
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC): P 1,326,587.00
Contract Duration: 74 Calendar Days upon Issuance of Notice to Proceed (NTP)

Prospective Contractors shall possess a valid PCAB License with a registration particular in Water Supply, have undertaken a similar project with an amount of 50% of the proposed project for bidding, and have key personnel and equipment owned, leased or under purchase available for the prosecution of the project. The list of minimum equipment requirement is indicated in the Bidding Documents. The BAC shall use a non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility/Screening as well as in the Preliminary Examinations of Bids. Post Qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bid Conference shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules & Regulations (IRR).

The complete activities are listed:

BAC ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
1. Submission of Letter of Intent (LOI) including application for Eligibility	September 27 to October 2, 2006
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	September 27 to October 2, 2006
3. Submission of Eligibility Requirements	October 6, 2006
4. Submission of Results of Eligibility Check	October 9, 2006
5. Issuance of Bid Documents	October 10 to 13, 2006
6. Pre-Bid Conference	October 16, 2006
7. Submission and Opening of Bids	October 23, 2006

The Eligibility Forms will be available at the 3rd floor, Zamboanga City Water District, Pilar St., Zamboanga City, upon their submission of Letter of Intent and upon payment of a non-refundable amount of One Thousand Three Hundred Pesos (P 1,300.00), to the Zamboanga City Water District Cashier. Submission and results of eligibility shall be in the same office.

Bid Documents will be available only to Eligible Bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Thirteen Thousand Pesos (P 13,000.00) to the Zamboanga City Water Cashier.

The Zamboanga City Water District assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

(Sgd.) LEONARDO REY D. VASQUEZ
BAC II Chairman

(PDI–Sept. 29, 2006)

PAMPANGA II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
San Roque, Guagua, Pampanga
Tel. No. (045) 900-2650, (045) 9000-689 Fax No. (045) 9010-534
Email address: pelco-2@yahoo.com

September 25, 2006

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION OF BIDDERS

PAMPANGA II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (PELCO II) WITH OFFICE ADDRESS AT SAN ROQUE, GUAGUA, PAMPANGA IS INVITING ELIGIBLE BIDDERS FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF THE FOLLOWING:

Item	Quantity
1. Pentium Processor 4 3.0Ghz Mother Board (Intel Desktop Board) Memory: 1GB 3com Lan Card 10/100 VGA Card: 128MB Hard Disk: Seagate/Maxtor 80GB 7200 RPM Casing: Tower Case with Exhaust Fan With Keyboard & Mouse Glass Filter 17" and Mouse Pad	62 units
2. APC 650 (UPS)	62 units
3. Epson LQ 300+	19 units
4. Monitor 17" Color	44 units
5. CD-W Drive	35 units
6. Windows 2000 SP4 or Win XP Pro Sp2	62 units
7. Printer LQ 2180	2 units
8. Flat Screen LCD 14" Color	20 units
9. Switch Hub 3com (3C17300)	4 units

You are therefore invited for the pre-qualification to bid on October 4, 2006 (Wednesday), 10:00 a.m. at PELCO II Board Room San Roque, Guagua, Pampanga wherein there will be an orientation and discussion with regards to the specification of the units and in preparation for the bidding proper scheduled on October 11, 2006 (Wednesday) at 10:00 a.m.

Request further to include two separate sealed bids/proposals for the following:

1. Technical Proposals
2. Financial Proposals

To all interested bidders please prepare and submit the following documents to the BAC Chairman for your Accreditation. (For non-accredited supplier only).

1. Company's Profile
2. Latest ITR
3. Mayor's/Business Permit
4. Audited Financial Statement
5. DTI and SEC Registration
6. Accreditation Fee (P1,000.00)

All qualified bidders should secure bidding documents to the BAC Secretary with Bid Documents Fee to be determined with the confirmed number of bidders divided by the actual expenses incurred in the publication of this invitation and the reproduction of the bidding documents to be paid at the cashier's office.

The Bid Bond to be included in the Financial Proposal is either in the form of the following:

a. Cash/Manager's Check	2.5% of the total bid price
b. Surety Bond	10% of the total bid price

All bidders are requested to be at PELCO II Board Room exactly at the given date and time. Non-attendance on the scheduled pre-qualification and late bidders on the scheduled time of the bidding would mean an outright disqualification and can no longer participate on the bidding.

The Approved Budget Cost for this particular bidding is THREE MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED SIXTY TWO THOUSAND PESOS (Php 3,762,000.00)

THE BAC has the right to reject any or all bids that do not comply with the requirements, waive any informality in the proposal received and to accept such most advantageous to the cooperative.

For more information please see/contact Engr. Raul L. Canlas at PELCO II Office or dial number (045) 900-26.

(Sgd.) ENGR. RAUL L. CANLAS
PBAC Chairperson

Noted by:
(Sgd.) Mr. Sulpicio C. Lagarde,Jr.
General Manager

Rules on lending to small firms eased

Bangko Sentral OKs two-year waiver of ITR requirement

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS YESterday approved a new policy that simplified the requirements on small scale enterprises, or companies with assets not exceeding P15 million, seeking loans from banks.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. told reporters the policy included a two-year waiver of the income tax return requirement, which was imposed on most companies applying for bank loans.

Tetangco said that at present, microenterprises or those with assets of P3 million or less were already exempted from the ITR requirement. The concession would be expanded to include small-scale enterprises.

"The ITR requirement will be waived for only two years. This is just a transition period, whei small borrowers will be trained by banks to file their financial statements and ITRs," Tetangco said.

The BSP chief said the banking regulator had long wanted to allow this waiver but the Bureau of Internal Revenue had to be properly consulted first.

"The impact on government revenues will be minimal, although we will be able to cover the majority of small enterprises in the country," he said.

The waiver of ITR requirement for small-scale industries was among the measures proposed by the Export Development Council for the 2006 national competitiveness summit. It is aimed at easing credit flow in the country.

Under the International Finance Corp.-World Bank's annual survey on doing business, access to credit is consistently rated by firms as one of the greatest barriers to operations and growth.

The 2007 survey suggested that access to credit could be expanded significantly by credit registries—institutions that gather and disseminate information on credit histories. It added that effective regulations on secured lending—through collateral and bankruptcy laws—are another solution to credit constraints.

In the meantime, the BSP begged out of the list of institutions that would be tasked with prodding lenders to develop venture capital financing programs for Small and Medium Enterprises.

"This may be problematic for us as such programs involve greater credit risks and may not conform with the BSP's responsibilities as regulator of the banking industry," a BSP official said.

Also, the BSP earlier rejected proposals to exempt SMEs from rules governing real estate mortgage and chattel mortgage.

GOINGS-ON

VoIP seminar

PROMPTED BY the successful presentation at the SM Megatrade in SM Megamall in Manila recently, First Philippines Momentum Plus, a US-based company, is bringing the First Voice over the Internet Protocol (VoIP) seminar to Cebu City on Sept. 30. It will be held at the Baseline Ballroom, Juana Osmeña St.in Cebu City.

VoIP is a technology that allows people in the Philippines to make a call to the United States, Canada and other parts of the world at very minimal cost. Also, VoIP to VoIP and M+ global to global calls are free.

John Ciccotte, COO and founder of First Philippine Momentum Plus, will be in Cebu to speak before seminar participants, along with Momentum Plus executive Anita Marquez.

For more details, call or text James Alcantara at 0916-7888487 and Anita Marquez at 0921-5789720 for reservations.

Meralco-TIM

MANILA ELECTRIC CO. has teamed up with Total Information Management (TIM) Corp. to implement Information Lifecycle Management (ILM) through enterprise backup.

The company said this development would provide efficient data management for Meralco to survive and prosper in the deregulated power industry.

The ILM technology addresses the company's needs through tiered storage and related software to store, manage, share and protect the data at different levels.

WISE conference

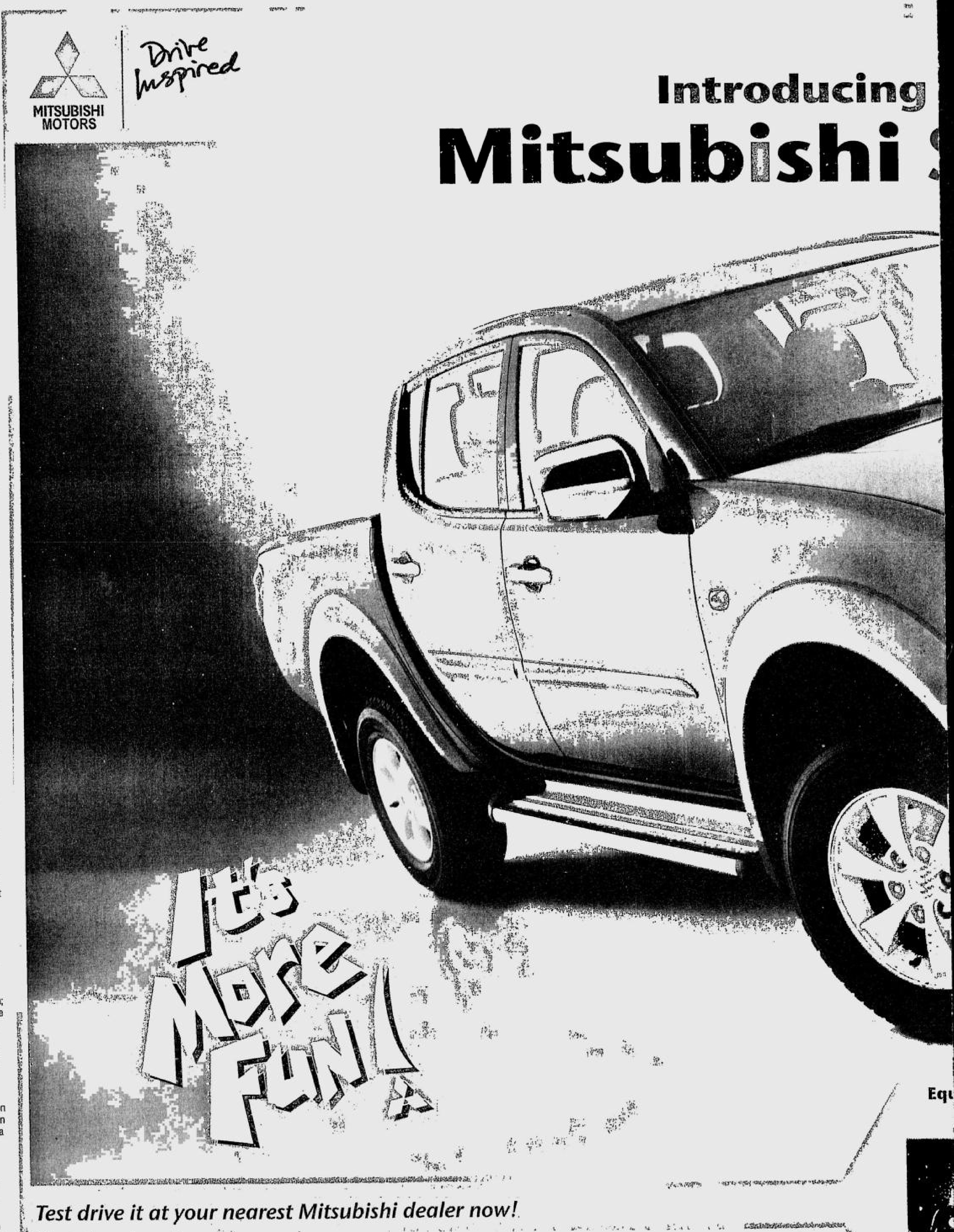
SCHOOL LEADERS, owners and administrators nationwide are invited to the WISE Learning Conference and advocacy meeting to be held by the Center for Learning and Teaching Styles (CLTS) on Oct. 15 – 17 at the AIM Conference Center, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.

CLTS president Henry Tenedero said WISE, which stands for Winning Ideas and Strategies in Education, would have distinguished speakers who will provide participants, educators and practitioners with the opportunity to exchange ideas, knowledge and concerns about enabling life-long learning.

The topics and the confirmed speakers are: "Operational Frameworks for Financial Management in Your School" by Prof. Danilo Antonio; "A Core Strategy in Building Dynamic and Sustainable Partnerships" by Jesus Alfonso Carpio; "Intellectual Challenges of Entrepreneurial Management" by Virgilio Espeleta; Bridging Leadership: "The Art of Building Coalitions for School Success" by Prof. Ernesto D. Garilao: "Leadership and Innovation" by Prof. Jacinto Gavino Jr.;

"Public Education Goes Inclusive: Education for All, By All" by Corazon T. Jimenez; "Promoting a Mindful Revolution in General Education" by Prof. Milagros Du Lagrosa; "The Mind of the Market and What Your Competition is Saying" by Prof. Tomas Lopez, Jr.; "From Classroom to Workplace: Breaking the Education and Industry Gap" by Prof. Federico M. Macaranas, "The Search for Deeper Meaning in the Learning Environment: ISQ at Work" by Prof. Isabelita Roque Sy Palanca.

WEARING YOUR FRUITS. Local weavers like Narda vines. Fashion designer Eros Goze (right) showcase h



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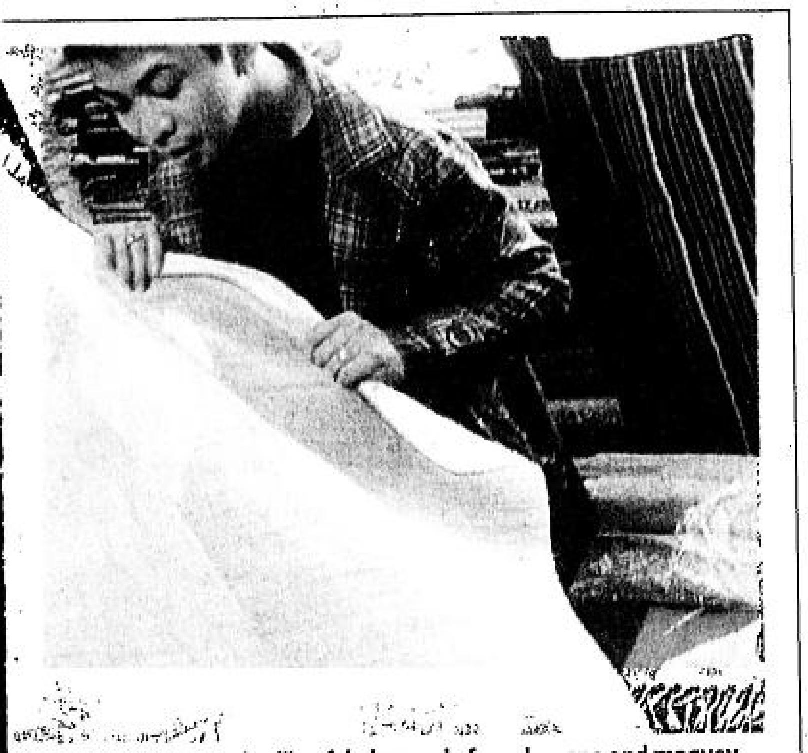

Capuyan have started selling fabrics made from banana and maguey
aute couture made from these materials at Narda's Baguio shop.

VINCENT CABREZA/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

US firm bats for labor contracting

Stopping trend may lead to abuse of workers, Manpower says

By Ronnel W. Domingo

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE PROVIDER MANpower Inc. is batting for the institutionalization of labor contracting in the Philippines where it is "banned but is a huge industry."

David Arkless, senior vice president of the Wisconsin-based firm, said in a briefing on Thursday that the prohibition of such a thriving business leads to the abuse of workers.

Arkless said governments and societies needed to recognize the growing importance of a contingent workforce, which included temporary employees, contractors, outsourced workers and consultants.

"There is an increased need for flexible staffing, both as managed internally or through external resources (like our firm)," he said. "Workforce composition is changing and employee-employer relationships are now becoming triangular."

The triangle, Arkless explained, include the employee as an agency worker, the employer, which is the employment agency, and the client, which is the company where the worker is assigned.

The official said the use of contingent workforce was increasing and was now made up of variety of different levels of skills and roles.

Temporary employees are typically lower-skilled, have no college degree, work on-site for the host company on either short-term (three to five months) or long-term (three years or longer).

Contractors are typically higher-skilled, degreed professionals who work on-site on short-term, long-term or project-oriented assignments.

Outsourced employees can work on-site or in their own facilities on typically long-term assignments, and do not necessarily have college degrees.

Consultants are highly-skilled professionals with bachelor's or graduate degrees who work on-site or in their own facilities typically at a defined project or period.

"Increasingly, the trend is ensuring that agency employees receive the same treatment as regular ones," Arkless said. "The agency industry is also becoming more regulated and recognized."

He said that in the Philippines, the government needed to provide a structure that would ensure that the local economy was supported by the available skills while continuing with the export of workers.

As for labor contracting, Arkless said Manpower has been lobbying with governments in various parts of the world in support of this trend.

"Providing a defined legal structure for this employment situation would help in eradicating elements and groups that abuse workers, particularly those who collect fees in return for jobs."

GMA sets China visit

By Chito A. Fuentes
Inquirer Visayas

JIANGXI, CHINA—President Macapagal-Arroyo is set to visit this province in November, marking just the first time that a head of state will visit the nonferrous metals production base of China.

The President will witness during her visit the signing of the bilateral agreement between the Philippine and Chinese provinces of Bohol and Jiangxi.

The Bohol-Jiangxi agreement will focus on agriculture, tourism, mining industry, culture and education.

Last Tuesday, the President's advance party led by consul-general Emelinda Lee Pineda toured Nanchang University, together with a 14-man delegation from Bohol led by Tagbilaran Mayor Dan Lim.

The university is Jiangxi's biggest with a student population of 83,000.

Bohol Gov. Erico Aumentado, who could not make the trip due to a previous engagement, designated Lim as the head the delegation composed of chiefs of provincial government offices.

A red streamer welcoming the President greeted the visitors at one of the university gates.

Aumentado, who is also president of both the League of Provinces of the Philippines and the Union of Local Administrators of the Philippines, will accompany Ms Arroyo when she visits China in November.

The Chinese officials who conducted the school tour said the first statue was erected in Normandy, France.

The Jiangxi officials led by Wu Xin Xong, vice party secretary and deputy governor, Jiangxi's third-ranked official, treated the Philippine delegation to a welcome dinner.

During the ceremonies, Wu and Pineda paid tribute to Philippine-Chinese friendship but no details on the nature of the President's visit were given.

Pineda expressed hope that the visit will lead to more Chinese investments in the Philippines considering that many Filipino-Chinese businessmen invest heavily in China.

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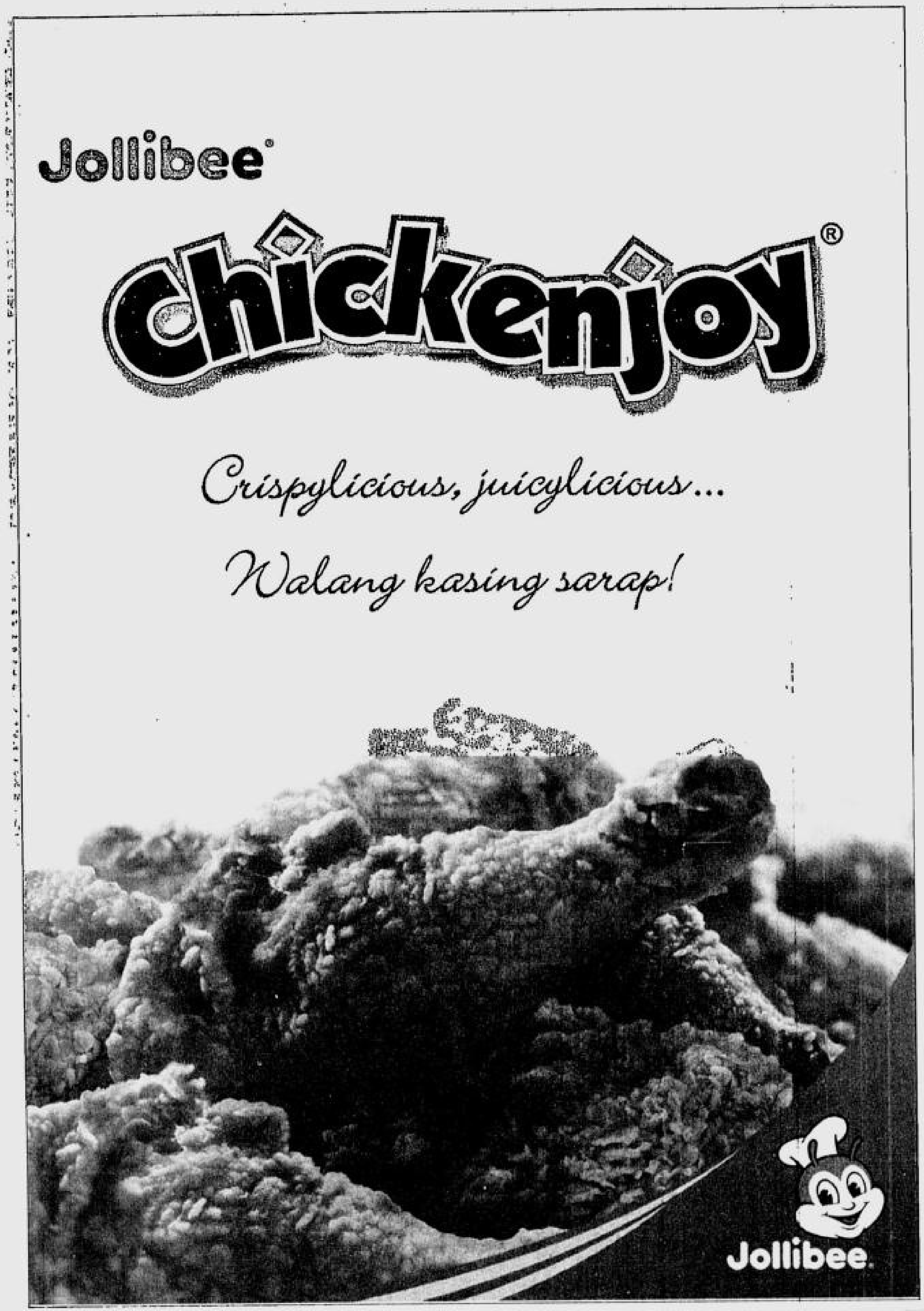

PMAP 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Building a Career in the Philippines: Gaps and opportunities

By Grace Abella-Zata

ONE OF THE WAYS THE PERSONNEL Management Association of the Philippines has chosen to celebrate its 50th year anniversary this year is by organizing a tripartite conference in November that will bring together government, industry and the education sectors to: a) define in clearer terms, per major industry or functional area the "mismatch" issue and to 2) encourage and support more industry-education partnership arrangements.

The mismatch issue has become more important because of tremendous opportunities in the IT and ITC enabled services sector (contact centers, business processing, data transcription, animation etc.) Government projections show this sector will employ an additional two million by 2010. Our PMAP colleagues from the industry say this is not a pipe dream and that the number is probably a conservative estimate. We are getting good feedback about our Filipino talents (competent, hardworking, likeable and charming) and more foreign companies want to establish hubs in the Philippines. Our growth, however, will be limited by our capacity to provide competent people.

PMAP is also joining the advocacy to establish the Philippines as a center for high value work such as IT software development. These jobs pay twice or thrice as much as call center jobs and would move the Philippine business processing up the value chain. For Filipinos to take advantage of these opportunities, we should develop and enhance the following basic competencies: spoken and written English, analytical and conceptual skills, self-confidence, initiative and resourcefulness, adaptability to different nationalities and situations, and emotional maturity to deal with stress and be good leaders.

Grace Abella-Zata is PMAP's Chair of the 50th year Anniversary Committee. She is Managing Director of Corporate Executive Search Inc.

PMAP anniversary book shows vital role of HR management, leaders

By Gerardo Cabochan

PMAP's GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY BOOK showcases the impressive development of human resource management in the Philippines. At this juncture of our business history, on the golden anniversary of the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines, we see many Philippine organizations- both subsidiaries of multinationals and Filipino-owned companies –paying more than lip service to the twin beliefs that people are the greatest asset of the corporation and that people development is an investment and not a cost of doing business. The articles in the book likewise constitute solid proof of an HR function that has come into its own and of HR leaders leveraging on human capital in the execution of strategies and empowering people in the determination of the company's future.

Articles in the collection are subdivided into three levels: enterprise paradigms, organizing principles and management practices. The paradigms include Bangko Kabayan and its spiritual model, Moog Controls and its humanistic model and Pfizer Philippines with its excellence model. All three- spiritual perfection, self-actualization and Olympian achievement –depend on human initiative, more on systemic processes. "People run systems; systems do not run people" is a defining statement of these three paradigms.

Please call PMAP at 7261532/81/88 to purchase the book.

Gerardo Cabochan is editor of PMAP's anniversary book, People Management in the Philippines: Real Stories of Excellence and is Managing director of Pandayan Bookshop.

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INVITATION TO A PRE-QUALIFICATION CONFERENCE AND SEALED BIDDING

Interested parties are hereby invited to a **PRE-QUALIFICATION CONFERENCE** and **SEALED BIDDING** for the supply of various standard pole line hardware and other electrical equipments and materials.

The **PRE-QUALIFICATION CONFERENCE** will be held on **10 October 2006 at 10:00 a.m.** at the Punctuality Hall, BENECO Building, DPS Compound, Utility Road, Baguio City. The complete list of electrical materials and equipments including the technical description and specifications and other related matters will be discussed.

Prospective bidders must submit their Company Profile: Income Tax Returns and Audited Financial Statements for the past three (3) years and Track Record.

Bid Documents are available to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php 1,000.

SEALED BIDS must be received on or before **16 October 2006 at 10:00 a.m.** at the Punctuality Hall, BENECO Building, DPS Compound, Utility Road, Baguio City. **OPENING OF BIDS** will be on the same date, time and venue.

Only those who were present during the Pre-Qualification Conference and who submitted the above-enumerated requirements will be allowed during the Bidding Proper.

BENECO reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid most advantageous to the BENECO.

(Sgd.) GERARDO P. VERSOZA
General Manager

(PDI - Sept. 26 & 29, 2006)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that MCCI CORPORATION Stock Certificates No. C4938 for 986 shares and No. C5386 for 591 shares issued to Esmeraldo C. Roque, Jr. have been lost. If no contest is received on or before October 13, 2007, new certificates will be issued in lieu of the lost ones.

(PDI–Sept. 29, Oct. 6 & 13, 2006)

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J-SYS Philippines

J-SYS Philippines Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of JGC Information Systems Co., Ltd. based in Yokohama, Japan, which is engaged in the design and development of computer integrated manufacturing systems, project management systems and engineering process control systems using Oracle database technology, announces the recruitment of

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Successful candidates will be further trained in the Philippines on the latest computer and programming technology as well as on the Japanese language (Nihongo). May be assigned to work on short to long-term projects overseas.

A competitive compensation package as well as travel opportunities await the successful candidates. Interested applicants may come with their resumé and recent 2" x 2" photo between 9:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. on October 2-20, 2006 for the preliminary examinations to be held at:

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Office of the President

NOTICE OF SALE

Please be informed that the following properties of the Home Guaranty Corporation are being offered for public bidding:

	PROPERTY LOCATION	TYPE	FLOOR AREA	LOT AREA	SELLING PRICE	REMARKS
1	No. 81 (Blk 3 Lot 11) Sampaloc St, Mapayapa Village I, Brgy. Pasong Tamo, Quezon City	House & lot	679.55	432	7,213,800.00	vacant
2	No. 11 Kasaganaan St., Kasibulan Village, Cainta, Rizal	House & lot	197.75	180	2,440,900.00	illegaly occupied
3	No. 25 Palumbarit St., San Isidro, Taytay, Rizal	House & lot	269	357	2,380,400.00	illegaly occupied
4	Blk B Lot 5, Windy St., San Isidro, Angono, Rizal	House & lot	61	180	896,500.00	illegaly occupied
5	B3L21-A, Tradition Homes I, Brgy. Inocencio, Trece Martirez City, Cavite	House & lot	21	37.5	122,100.00	vacant
6	B3L26-A, Tradition Homes I, Brgy. Inocencio, Trece Martirez City, Cavite	House & lot	21	37.5	122,100.00	vacant

FOR INTERESTED PARTIES, PLEASE CALL HOME GUARANTY CORPORATION AT 896-04-25, 897-31-49 OR VISIT OUR HEAD OFFICE AT JADE BLDG. NO. 335 SEN. GIL PUYAT AVENUE, MAKATI CITY

(SGD) RAFAEL P. DE LOS SANTOS
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(PDI–Sept. 29, 2006)

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26 October 1913 – 24 September 2006

Ka Memong born in Tubigon, Bohol on 26 October 1913 peacefully joined the Lord on September 24, 2006 at the age of 94.

Ka Memong's advocacy on peasant movement, democratization, sustainable agriculture and land reform are struggle of his entire life.

His mortal remains lie in Sta. Josefa, Agusan del Sur.

Interment today, 29 September 2006.

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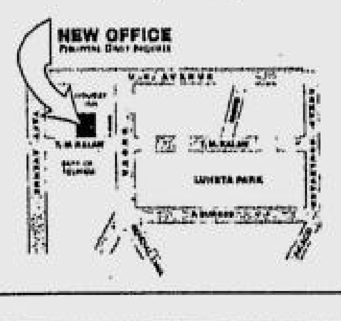

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His remains lie in state at Santuario de San Antonio Chapel from Thursday, 28 September 2006 to Saturday, 30 September 2006.

The funeral Mass will be held on Saturday, 30 September 2006, at 9:30 am.

BUSINESS

BSP moves to lower remittance cost

Tetangco says government eyes agreement with US clearing house

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS is working on lowering the cost of sending remittances borne by overseas Filipino workers by forging links with the US Automated Clearing House.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the planned hook-up would also speed up the flow of funds denominated in US dollars.

"All dollar remittances coming through ACH will be sent faster and at a cheaper cost," Tetangco said.

About 70 percent of remittances to the Philippines are estimated to be denominated in US dollars.

The BSP chief said in a recent economic forum that there was a need to finetune regulations on remittances to make it easier and cheaper for OFWs to send money home.

After tightening the disclosure requirements on banks accepting the remittances, the BSP now wants to look for ways to lower cost.

Tapping the ACH, the clearing gateway for US dollar cash transfers, is part of the strategy.

The cost of sending remittances to the country has dropped slowly but steadily through the years.

Based on surveys, it costs an average of $7-11.59 to remit to the Philippines, using one's own bank, representing 1.77-2.9 percent of the transaction value.

Five years ago, the cost averaged at $8 to $12 or 2-3 percent of the transaction value.

A link-up with ACH, Tetangco said, would cut costs "significantly."

TETANGCO

Virgin coco oil producer defers plan to hold IPO

By Christine A. Gaylican

SPLASH HOLDINGS INC. SAID IT WOULD push back by one year its plan to hold an initial public offering this year so it could have more time to strengthen its international operations.

Company chair and CEO Rolando Hortaleza said in an interview that the move would allow the company to focus on promoting its health and wellness Theraherb brand in overseas markets.

Hortaleza said the company had the winning product that would enable it to widen its market reach, referring to virgin coconut oil and other coconut-related products.

"VCO will be our platform for internation expansion," said Hortaleza.

In line with this strategy, VCO was made the anchor product of Splash Holdings' newest subsidiary, Splash Nutraceutical Corp. The company launched late last year its flavored virgin coconut oil under the brand Theraherb. Aside from the unflavored type, Theraherb VCO also comes in banana, sweet corn, and jackfruit flavors in 250ml and 150ml bottles.

The decision to take the lead in promoting VCO worldwide is rooted in Splash's core value of helping the local economy and, specifically, the coconut farmers.

This is why Splash has historically emphasized the use of indigenous ingredients in all its products.

In endorsing VCO, the company will be creating opportunities for some 3.5 million coconut farmers toiling in 68 of the country's 79 provinces.

A total of 25 million Filipinos depend on the coconut industry for their livelihood.

The strategy hit a minor stumbling block, however, when the Philippine Coconut Authority, the local government office charged with regulating the coconut industry, imposed constraints on Splash's packaging and marketing design. The PCA compelled Splash to label its flavored offerings as "Flavored Coconut Oil made from Virgin Coconut Oil" instead of just "Flavored VCO."

The PCA change created a drastic marketing setback since the new wording created the implication of dilution in the minds of consumers, no matter how untrue.

The PCA took the stance that flavored VCO cannot be "virgin" if other chemicals, such as flavoring, have been added to the oil. But VCO producers are saying that "virgin" actually refers to the process of extracting the oil from fresh coconuts, rather than from copra or mature coconuts. Moreover, they point out that what really matters in VCO's health claims is not whether it is flavored or unflavored but that it contains lauric acid, the same health benefit found in mothers' milk.

Splash and other players in the industry are currently threshing out the problem with the PCA.

For now, Splash's line of VCO products already appears a winner. After the launch late last year, sales hit P50 million by the end of the year. This year, Splash expects to sell P350 million worth of their VCO products.

Maynilad starts servicing $250M in obligations

MAYNILAD WATER SERVICES INC. HAS started paying its $250 million worth of debts, which might allow the west area concessionaire to shorten its rehabilitation timetable originally set for nine years, officials yesterday said.

Maynilad board chair Oscar Garcia said that by the end of this year, there would already be a significant reduction in Maynilad's $250-million debt.

"Probably about 40 percent of these liabilities would be settled by December," said Garcia.

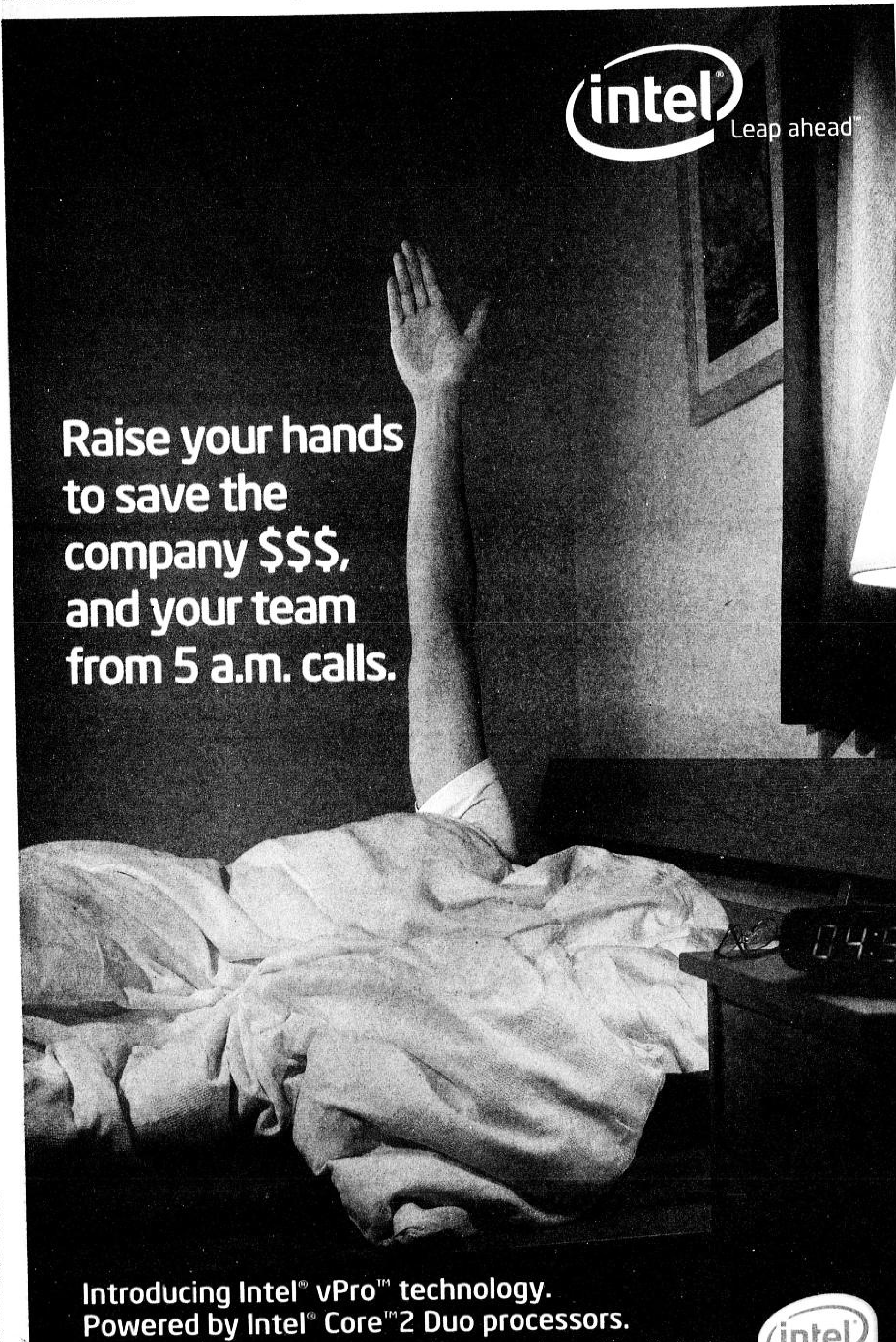
Designated court receiver Rosario Bernaldo said in an interview that Maynilad had paid more than P2 billion since January this year.

The company's creditors include Deutsche Bank, Credit Agricole, Indosuez Merchant Bank Asia Ltd., Citibank NA, Barclays Bank Plc, BNP Paribas, Equitable-PCI Bank, Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. and state-owned Development Bank of the Philippines.

Creditors and shareholders earlier agreed to allow private investors to acquire a majority stake in the company, which was currently held by the government.

Maynilad serves more than eight million customers in the west zone covering Manila and neighboring cities.

The Lopez group won in the bidding of the west zone concession in 1997. After almost six years of operations, it filed for court rehabilitation due to unsettled foreign loans, which were assumed by the MWSS. *Christine A. Gaylican*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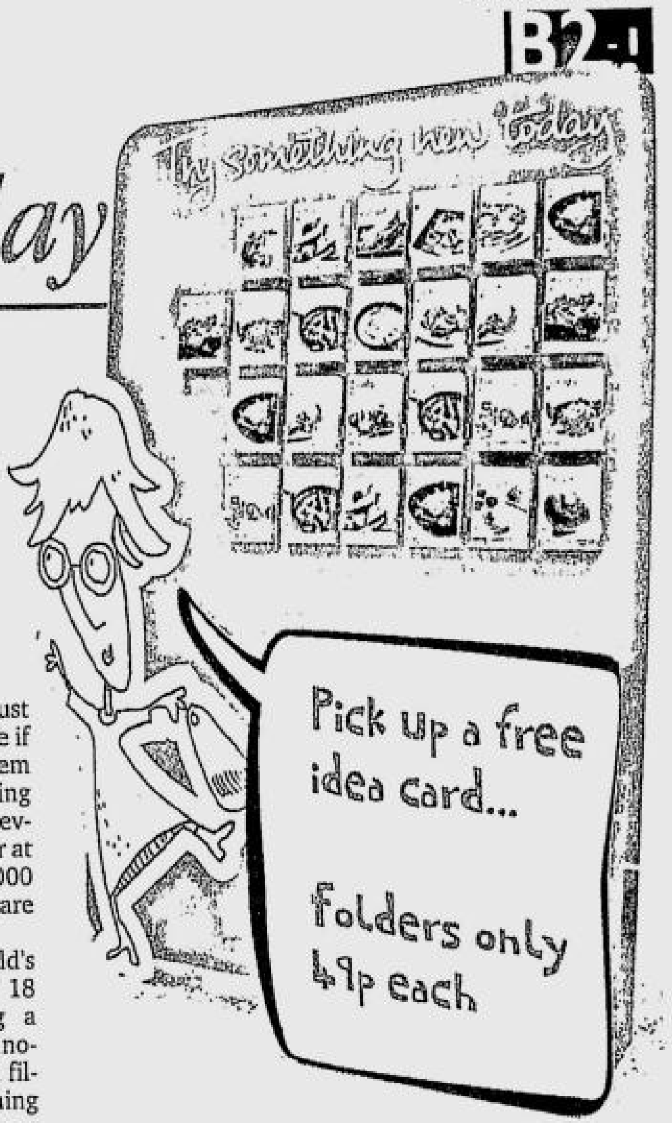
E-mail: business@inquirer.com.ph

BUSINESS Friday
Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

The idea is the medium

Media neutral process needs to provide key things for brand owners

POINTS in store materials like the carrot visual while right photo shows in-store recipe idea leaflets.



By Paul Roebuck
Contributor

CHANGE IS OFTEN PAINFUL, BUT more often than not, necessary.

Vaclav Havel, former president of the Czech Republic and leading figure of that country's emergence from communism during the 1989 "Velvet Revolution," once wrote, "Many things indicate that we are going through a transitional period when it seems that something is on the way out and something else is painfully being born."

No one can argue that the marketing and advertising communities are in a transitional phase of rapid and destabilizing change making us reevaluate old models and search for answers to questions that many of us wish weren't being asked.

The facts are undeniable. Media inflation is making it increasingly expensive for brand owners to reach the number of people they did 10 years ago through "traditional media," making it no longer cost effective to repeat the same message in the same manner over and over again. Media fragmentation—the increasing complexity of communication channels—means that consumers can just "opt out" of receiving your message if they so desire, and with all of them becoming exposed to an increasing number of marketing messages everyday, (estimates put that number at somewhere between 3,000 and 5,000 messages daily), many of them are doing exactly that.

Moore's Law states that the world's information doubles every 18 months. With consumers using a wider variety of channels and technological means to sort through and filter this information, it is becoming

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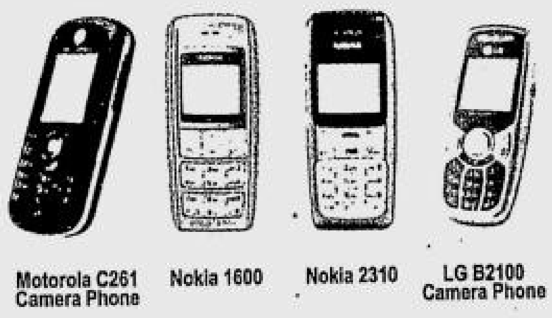

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The idea is the medium

From page B2-1

impossible for marketers and agencies to know that their messages will reach consumers for any length of time … or at all.

Don't think it isn't happening here in the Philippines. It is.

The Philippines has over 40 million mobile handsets, there are 4.5 million registered users of the social networking Internet site, Friendster, in the Philippines alone—85 percent of whom check their profiles once a month, with many logging on up to three times a week. There simply isn't enough time in the day for consumers to engage meaningfully with every medium and channel that delivers information to them.

Such realities led Jim Stengel, chief marketing officer of Procter & Gamble, who controls the world's largest advertising budget at $2.9 billion, to state to the American Association of Advertising Agencies in 2004 that, "today's marketing model is broken … The traditional marketing model is obsolete." Since then, Stengel has implied that he was not prepared to bankroll the TV industry any longer and that he would be pulling budgets off air and moving into "rich media" whatever that may eventually mean—although the implication is it consists of online and digital with direct to consumer channels being used in increasing amounts.

Many agencies have searched around looking for the magic silver bullet that will answer all their (and their clients') woes, with many adopting terms such as "media neutrality" to try and demonstrate that they are changing and can embrace a multi-channel approach to solving their clients' problems.

In reality, there are relatively few real "media neutral" campaigns out there. As an industry, it has taken us 50 years to train ourselves to think in a certain way, and it's going to take us more than a few years to train ourselves to think differently and alter the status quo permanently, despite the market telling us we should do otherwise.

"Media neutral" is a bit misleading and is often applied to a number of ways of working, but it still places the emphasis on the need to rent someone else's media and fails to capture the essence of what is required … to be truly ideas based.

The future should be about a process whereby the idea comes before the media specific output. In today's age of rapid change, a media neutral process needs to provide several key things for brand owners:

1. Ideas that work simultaneously, not sequentially.

Traditionally, we expected communication to work on a set of consumer beliefs that over time could be changed by exposure to our messages. The result of a change in these beliefs would then (hopefully) lead to a desired change in their behavior. That takes time we often don't have in today's world. Our ideas need to work on consumers' beliefs and behaviors at the same time.

2. Ideas that unite silos to work more effectively.

We need to be able to bring specialists with expertise in the many different skills required to engage consumers in today's world together so that they can work more effectively and productively.

3. Ideas that galvanize internal audiences as well as external ones.

It's often equally as important for ideas to exact change on internal company audiences as well as external consumers.

4. Ideas that engage.

We need to engage people emotionally as well as physically in a way that is mutually beneficial to both. We need ideas that are a true value exchange of time, energy and mutual respect between brand owners and consumers.

At BBDO we call such ideas, Total Ideas, and we have developed a process and way of working that helps us to get to them faster, which we call Total Work.

The Total Work process is ideas-led and forces us not to think in terms of the channel for delivery of a message but the potency and value of the idea itself. It's a framework for thinking that provides us with the opportunity to bring our specialists in direct, interactive, mobile and CRM together with our creative teams to deliver ideas that allow our clients to leverage total brand control and achieve better return on their investment.

In the UK, a Total Work campaign for Sainsbury's supermarket has led to the high street retailer doubling their sales growth and producing 112 million pounds in incremental sales in the first three months of their campaign breaking.

In Malaysia, KFC sold 1.5 million of its Original Recipe Burger in the first month of launching a Total Work campaign to support its debut.

Here in the Philippines, Total Work is driving consumers to continue demanding more of Pizza Hut's Cheezy Volcano pizzas, and GE Money Bank is enjoying a rise in new consumer deposits from the promise of "Simply Better Banking" communicated through a Total Work campaign.

The late marketing guru and editor of The Harvard Business Review, Ted Levitt once said, "The future belongs to people who see possibilities before they become obvious."

In a period of transitional change in the marketing and advertising communities, it would serve us well to remember these words.

(The author is chief consultant at BBDO Guerrero Ortega, one of the top advertising companies in the Philippines. Prior to joining BBDO GO, he was chief operating officer at the Jakarta office of Saatchi and Saatchi.)

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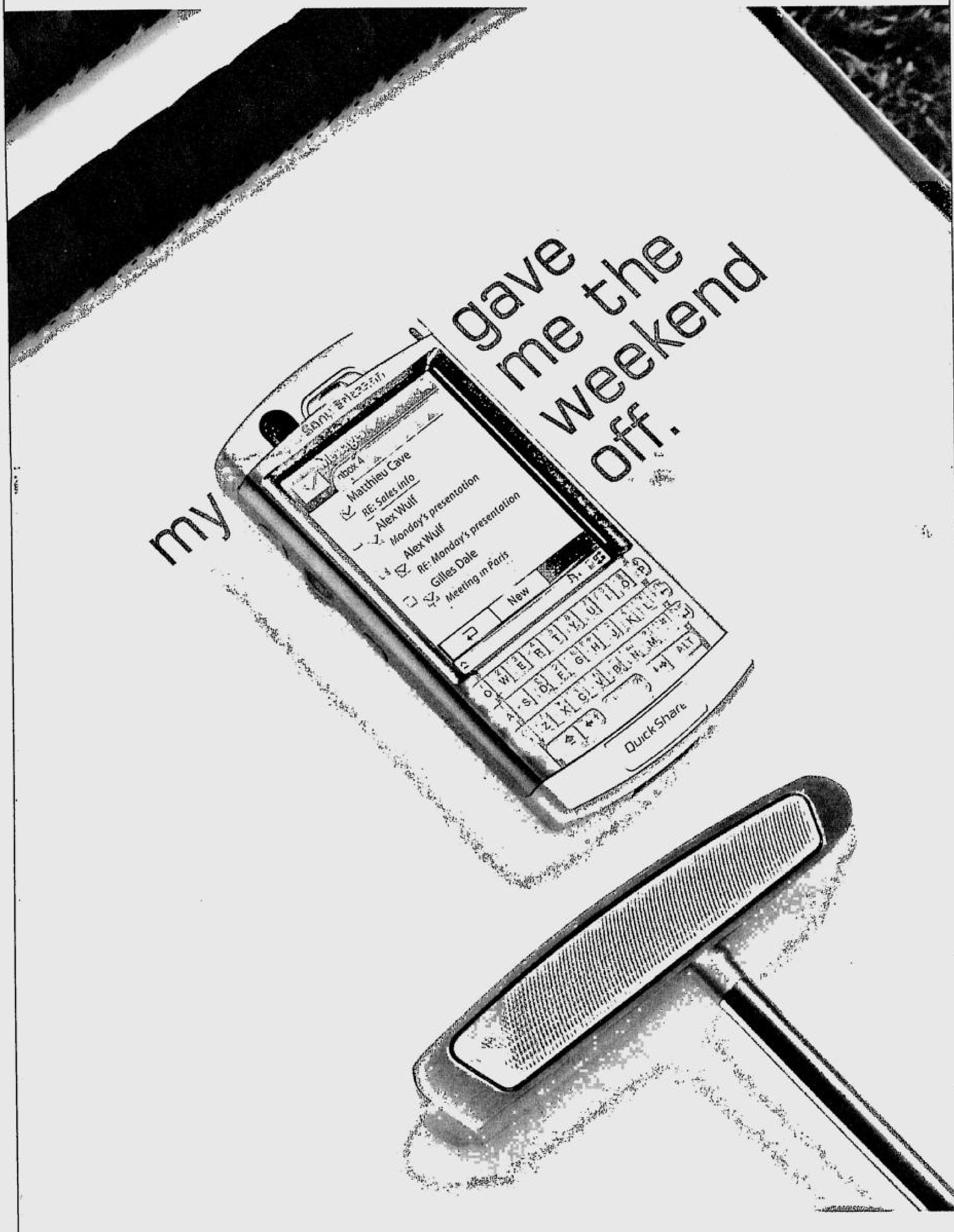

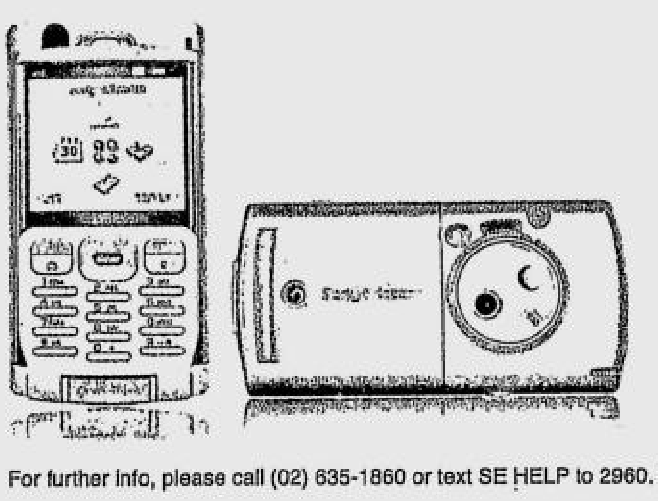

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Business savvy execs turn to the Sony Ericsson P990i

Any busybody in need of breaking out of the office will find the new Sony Ericsson P990i the handiest of companions. This all-in-one communication tool provides the convenience of conducting business anywhere, anytime while giving you almost limitless possibilities for downtime entertainment. Following the legacy of the landmark Sony Ericsson P800, the P900i and the P910i, the Sony Ericsson P990i gets you to accomplish and enjoy more in work and leisure with just one mobile device.

Log on to any high-speed wireless LAN in a hotel, airport or even a coffeeshop and you're all set for instantly fast Web access. With 3G connectivity, the P990i lets you speedily download files, view, edit and resend attachments with a few quick flicks of your stylus. Check the weather, foreign exchange or get international news stories in a flash from wherever your mobile office takes you. Full HTML pages can even be viewed in landscape with the phone's more advanced Opera 8 browser.

Can't afford to lose access to your office email? That's what the push email facility is for, fast and easy access to all your emails. The phone supports push email services of AlteXia, BlackBerry Connect, Ericsson Mobile Office, iAnywhere/Sybase, Intellisync, Microsoft Exchange Active Sync, Seven and Visto.

The Sony Ericsson P990i also fully supports MS Office applications so there's no excuse not to draft that lunchbox note for your kid on Word, update your personal and corporate gift list on Excel or preview next week's agency presentation on PowerPoint.

If you can juggle work and play, then you can handle a three-way call. Dial up your business partner then dial in your assistant for instant conferencing. The faster you can get down to business, the faster you can get back to your golf game. In a 3G environment, the P990i's video telephony application with dual cameras also lets you see your caller. The phone supports streaming video, video recording and playback. With your viewing pleasure at 30 frames per second on a large 2.8-inch touchscreen, you can approve or disapprove an item immediately when you see it firsthand.

Just met a potential business contact at a party? The phone's 2-megapixel camera with autofocus comes with a Business Card Scanner that uses character recognition software. Scan the full-sized business card and the information lands directly to your Contacts. Forget about losing a business card ever again or having to manually type in all the information from a business card.

Additionally, the P990i has a touch-based picture editor in case you'd like to get creative with your phone-stored images. The large 262K TFT screen provides infinitely better viewing.

A 3D Hardware Accelerator proves that mobile gaming can be fun. If you can't hit the green just yet, give Vijay Singh Pro Golf 2005 from Gameloft a swing. This pre-installed 3D Java game adds to the fun factor. Or you can download new mobile games in 3D or 2D from the Sony Ericsson Fun and Downloads section.

The P990i also comes with a fully equipped music player that supports MP3, AAC and AAC+ formats, and includes a flight mode allowing the music player, mobile games and other applications to be used while the phone is switched off.

Mobile executives have been hard pressed to discover the balance between work and play. The Sony Ericsson P990i is just the phone to teach them.

ADVT.

Moving up with the slim and sexy Sony Ericsson M600i

You've just moved up in management and landed several accounts, or maybe that international trade fair brought in more orders than expected. Maybe the investors have decided your design ideas are worth it. Clients are happy and the job keeps you busy. You're getting thicker into business than you've ever been. The usual call and text to your office staff in Cebu, your factory team in Manila, and your design people in Hong Kong just doesn't cut it in the day-to-day demands of business communication. There must be a way to email a proposal away from your laptop and check the evening's movie schedule while waiting for the meeting's next presentation to start.

There is. The Sony Ericsson M600i brings multitasking to new levels, without the long wait of a slow Internet connection. This slim and sexy 15 mm mobile phone with 3G connectivity is strong on keeping you Web-powered and ready. Make online transactions, download videos, music or even games, preview online photo albums and movie trailers, read up on RSS feeds, update your blog, check everything from the weather to the currency exchange.

The phone takes full advantage of its UMTS capabilities with fast and easy email handling, even with large attachments. You can securely access corporate and personal emails through a variety of standard and proprietary push email applications. Partners for push email include BlackBerry Connect, AlteXia, Ericsson Mobile Office (EMO) (Try and Buy), iAnywhere, OneBridge, Intellisync, Microsoft Exchange ActiveSync, Seven and Visto.

Sift through your inbox through incorporated emails, view attachments or even print emails through a Bluetooth printer.

The M600i supports MS Office applications right out of the box. So you can craft business letters in Word, check out accounting's update on Excel spreadsheets or create a PowerPoint presentation then and there. The phone also supports reading Adóbe PDF files. Over 600 compatible applications and utilities to mix business and pleasure are available for the M600i.

Other features of this lightweight 112-gram powerhouse are sound recorder, 3D games, MegaBass? sound, MP3 ringtones, calendar, timer, alarm clock, speakerphone, stopwatch, Music DJ? for music editing, and flight mode, to access other features aboard planes.

With its 2.6-inch TFT touchscreen at 262K colors and video playback at 30 frames per second, the M600i provides real Internet viewing and surfing pleasure. Plus, it's got the kind of memory unexpected of such a sleek, slim device. The M600i packs an impressive 60MB onboard memory for storing email attachments and multimedia content like video clips, music files and even podcasts. Memory is upgradeable to up to 4 GB. A new ultra-small recording media called Memory Stick Micro™ (M2™) designed for highly compact mobile devices provides an additional 64MB, and is provided in the box. The M600i is the first Sony Ericsson product to feature this new memory card.

The Sony Ericsson M600i comes in Granite Black or Crystal White, providing a stylish surface for a multimedia power-packed phone. It's high on style and miles ahead on the super information highway. Getting ahead means having this mobile office, web browser, multimedia player, organizer and messaging device in one right in your pocket.

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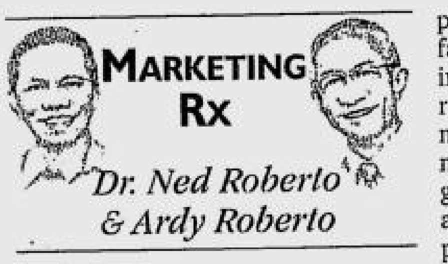
BUSINESS*Friday*

'What's the best way to use SMS to promote our brand?'



MARKETING Rx

Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto

A MANAGER FROM THE PHARMAceutical industry asks: "We're looking at using mobile marketing as another channel to launch and build our new brand. How do we go about this? Are there studies or case studies in other countries that we can learn from?"

This week, we consult with brand technology guru, Martin Lindstrom, best-selling author of "Brand Child" and "Clicks, Bricks and Brands." Lindstrom today is one of the most respected branding gurus in the world. Lindstrom was the global COO for British Telecom/LookSmart, an executive at BBDO, the founder and CEO of BBDO Interactive Asia, and co-founder of BBDO Interactive Europe, both of which became their region's largest Internet solution company. Lindstrom will be a featured speaker, along with brand gurus David Aaker, Jack Trout and Faith Popcorn, at the Global Brand Forum (www.globalbrandforum.org) in Singapore this November.

Lindstrom: "Just as the whole world was thinking that wireless application protocol (WAP) was 'it,' the honor has gone to short messaging service (SMS), or "texting." In Europe, more than a trillion SMS messages a year are sent, generating $12 billion in revenue for carriers annually. (MRx note: The Philippines almost outdoes Europe. In the Philippines, according to TinCan Mobile Solutions CEO Wallace Panlilio, this figure ranges from 250 million on an ordinary day to 500 million text messages on a special day like Christmas or New Year. That's for all subscribers of Globe, Smart and Sun. So do the math on the number of messages sent per year!)

"What's more, as many as 8 percent of those messages might carry paid content in the form of either ads, which could cost marketers 3 to 5 cents each, or infograms, such as stock-price alerts, paid for by subscribers. Forrester Research contends that commissions and fees from such value-adding messages contributes $2 billion a year to carriers' coffers. (In the Philippines, 5 percent-10 percent of the 250 million messages that are sent every day are value-added messages - MRx.)

Future use of mobile marketing

"Aside from the interesting fact that consumers have demonstrated a preference for communicating using SMS, the really interesting issue for the world's marketers is the building and controlling of brands in the SMS medium. MTICKET, the world's first mobile ticketing system, has also been the first to signal future directions for mobile phone marketing use.

"In partnership with nightclubs, such as the Ministry of Sound, MTICKET makes it possible to have electronic tickets delivered directly to the purchaser's mobile phone. Clubbers can visit ClubConnexion, the UK's online dance community site, and buy discounted guest-list tickets. Once you've submitted your details to the site, including your mobile phone number, the booking confirmation and ticket numbers are sent directly to your phone as a text message. Then, at the nightclub's door, instead of waiting for ages while staff wade through mountains of paperwork to see if you're on the club's guest list, you simply show the attendants the MTICKET message on your mobile phone and head on in.

From e-tickets to SMS-tickets

"And this is just the beginning. Imagine the convenience of being able to carry your train or airline tickets as MTICKETs. You avoid the hassle of losing your ticket for a start—unless, of course, you lose your mobile phone. Or imagine having just seen your favorite band in concert after having used an MTICKET to attend, and receiving a special CD offer, sent by SMS, just as you're on the way home.

"The possibilities are endless, and so are the challenges for brands. Yet again, brands need to find a way of reflecting their core values on a limited canvas: The monochrome, text-only, tiny mobile display, an even more limited arena than that offered by the pre-World Wide Web, sans-graphics Internet of 10 years ago.

The relevancy challenge

"The big advantage and, simultaneously, the potential risk of the SMS channel lies in the intimacy of the handset. Every consumer has his or her own, and the marketing opportunities and dangers rest on this fact. The mobile phone could be an instrument for personalized, highly relevant marketing. But how will marketers achieve this ideal? The medium will test their ability to integrate their brands' message across all media, ensuring that the mobile phone emerges as another element in the chain reaction of one-to-one targeted messages.

"Brands will need to transmit relevant messages at relevant moments; consumers will need to be in the mood to receive unsolicited information on their mobiles. For instance, they're more likely to be receptive to the CD offer within half an hour of exiting the concert than when they're running late for work the next day. You might be quite happy to be reminded about the latest Star Wars movie on DVD just as you're passing the video store on the way home. And you'd be pleased to receive a Red Bull offer as you enter the nightclub—just show the message to the bartender for your free drink. You see, the brand's challenge isn't limited to the art of sending short, precise messages. The broader challenge is ensuring that the right message is received in the right context so that the brand communicates relevantly.

"And the potential risk I mentioned? Many companies will see SMS as yet another medium for uncontrolled spamming, just as many have used email.

SMS spamming will be regulated. Australia, for example, is close to establishing guidelines for such regulation. But regulatory controls will take time to evolve, and brands can do a lot of damage to themselves in the meantime. How would you feel about receiving the same beer brand's message six times a day for two weeks? I'm quite sure you'd boycott the brand for life!

"So, as in any other direct-marketing medium, the balance between creativity, message, timing and media context is the key to branding success. The mobile phone is yet another example of the enormous brand-building potential that's opened up to marketers over the past six months. Another channel certainly—and definitely another challenge."

If you have any questions for Martin Lindstrom or the rest of the Global Brand Forum (GBF) faculty made up of Jack Trout, Faith Popcorn and David Aaker, just email at MarketingRx@pldtDSL.net.

LING Nam started out as a simple wanton noodle shop, "a hole-in-the-wall" food house in 1950, along the historic T. Alonzo Street, in Sta. Cruz, Manila.

Half-a-century-old cuisine goes north

THE 56-YEAR OLD TRADITION OF LING Nam's Chinese authentic dishes has gone far, literally, as it is now in the town of Bantay, one of the municipalities of the first district of Ilocos Sur.

Via the Manila north road, Bantay which serves as a gateway to Vigan, the provincial capital, is about 138 km north of San Fernando, La Union, and 403 km away from Manila.

This historic town, home of the San Augustine Church and the famous bell tower, is now home too, to the known Ling Nam legacy, courtesy of the Javier family's JTC Food Corp.

JTC was started by the late Cipriano Javier, a Manila-based Chinese-Filipino businessman and Asuncion Co Javier, a native of Vigan. Today, JTC is run by the grand matriarch together with siblings Noli who serves as the treasurer with wife Edralin; Jimmy is the secretary with wife Leny Dita; and Steve is the general manager. He is married to Cecille Galvez.

The Banta, Metro Vigan branch is the first franchisee after Ling Nam's re-launch early this year. It is in JTC Mall, the first and only fully air-conditioned shopping and entertainment mall in the Ilocos region. It boasts of authentic Chinese cuisine, serving the now-famous Chinese Ling Nam dishes—beef wanton, siopao, etc.

"Our choice of Ling Nam is based on our desire to serve something different from the usual fast-food offerings, something authentic to our fellow Ilocanos," said Steve. "Since we opened, we also noticed a good number of the Chinese community coming to the outlet, most of them we have not seen for a long time. It's like Ling Nam has given them back memories of the old times," he continued.

"Ling Nam" is derived from the word "Ling" which means mountain and "Nam" which means south. Together, the word refers to a mountain range in Guangdong, China, where the world-famous Cantonese cuisine originated. On the other hand, there are those who believe that the municipality of Bantay was named "bantay" after its natural and physical features, meaning, mountain, because of its hilly and mountainous terrain. The town was supposedly guarded by the miraculous image of Our Lady of Charity during the Spanish times which has remained in the St. Augustine Church, therein to remain forever to "guard" the place and the residents.

Generations have known Ling Nam, as that of a well-loved Chinese noodle soup, congee and dimsum house in the old Chinatown, Manila, where Filipinos frequent for breakfast, for lunch or after a long day's work.

Starting out as a simple wanton noodle shop, "a hole-in-the-wall" food house in 1950, Ling Nam's very first restaurant was situated along the historic T. Alonzo Street, in Sta. Cruz, Manila—a busy residential and business row. The place is a stone's throw away from Escolta, Avenida, Binondo and Divisoria—a melting pot for the business elite, executives, workers, as well as shoppers and students.

Together with relatives from Canton, China, Tomas Fung established Ling Nam. He worked hard to cater to the needs of the customers in the area, offering congee in the early morning and noodles throughout the day.

What made Ling Nam really famous is their savory beef wanton noodle—a signature Ling Nam recipe that clicked instantly with customers looking for a hot tasty meal.

Continuing to make fingers 'do the walking'

AN ELECTION CAMPAIGN AT this time of the year? Not quite. But it certainly seemed that way, as bullhorns blared atop trucks on a slow roll along the high-density areas of Quezon City, San Juan, Mandaluyong, Makati, Manila and Caloocan.

Commercial stalls, sari-sari stores, lamp posts and building walls in these areas were plastered with posters, while men in old-fashioned sandwich boards walked the streets, giving away flyers.

The noise attracted For what?

Believe it or not, for the 2006-2007 Directories Philippines Corporation (DPC) Yellow Pages, fresh out of the press.

Why all the noise? "First of all, we wanted PLDT subscribers to know that the new directories are available in convenient pick-up stations," said DPC president Ricardo D. Bautista. "Secondly, we wanted to call their attention to the fact that the Yellow Pages has lots of new features that make it more useful than ever before."

In today's marketplace, innovation is vital, he added, not just in terms of developing and enhancing products, but also in how these are marketed.

In the case of DPC, helping buyers find what they need as quickly as possible and enabling sellers to get easily found is what drives the company all year round. The biggest publisher of directories in the Philippines has been at the forefront in providing the public the most effective search tools for many years. From the traditional Yellow Pages print directory to its forays in the electronic realm, DPC is constantly innovating to effectively meet the needs of the rapidly changing market.

The newly released Yellow Pages does not only come in full color and with an abundance of useful features; its utility is enhanced by the Yellow Pages' complementary electronic and mobile platforms.

The new directory features 35 colored Metro Manila grid maps, rescoped alphabetical listings by area and useful icons to make searching a breeze for users.

In distributing the new directories, DPC partnered with Bayad Centers and Tambunting Pawnshops in strategic locations, selected using a geographic information system. Together with traditional collection stations at PLDT business centers, these helped double directory pick-ups in many areas, Bautista said.

The DPC president added that the company's sales and marketing programs have evolved to help advertisers get the most out of their investment in the Yellow Pages.

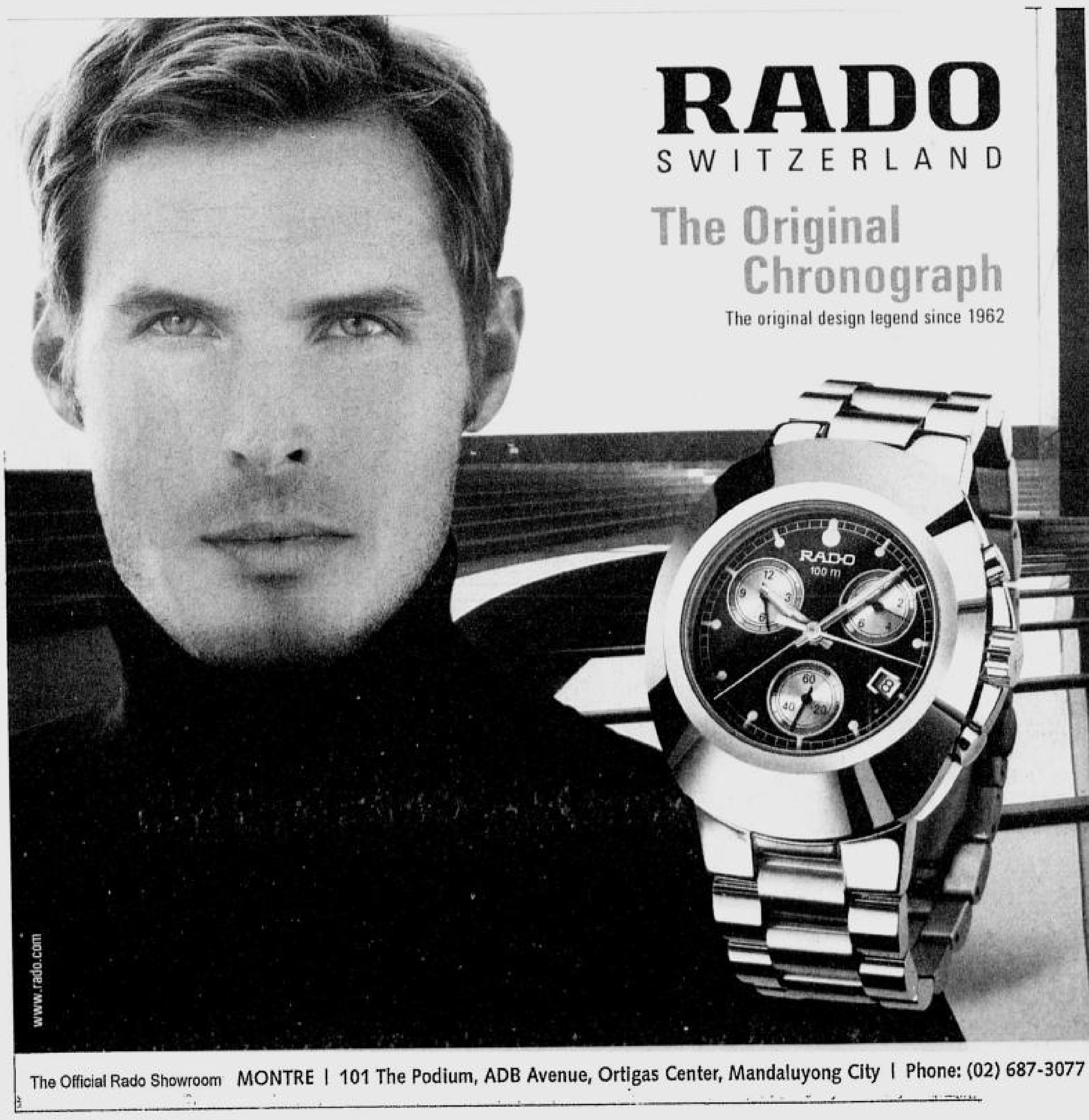
A user survey conducted by DPC revealed that 89 percent of those who open the Yellow Pages call an establishment found in the directory. Of this group of active searchers, 64 percent acquire a service or buy a product within 24 hours.

Bautista said people who turn to the Yellow Pages are already decided to buy. This makes it a cost-effective advertising medium for companies, particularly small and medium enterprises, to advertise their products and services.

"For about 80% of our clientele, the Yellow Pages is their only ad spending," Bautista said.

Advertisers are also encouraged to practice cross-reference advertising. "If you sell balloons, you also need to advertise yourself in catering services, or party and event organizers, or chairs rental. In other words, we are encouraging our advertisers to think in terms of how the user thinks," Bautista said.

DPC is a Filipino firm. Its flagship Yellow Pages now comes as an integrated print, electronic and mobile directory. DPC currently publishes 35 telephone directories for Metro Manila and other major metropolitan centers in the country. DPC was established in 1989 to take over the operations of GTE Directories Corporation, an American firm which established its Philippine branch in 1957.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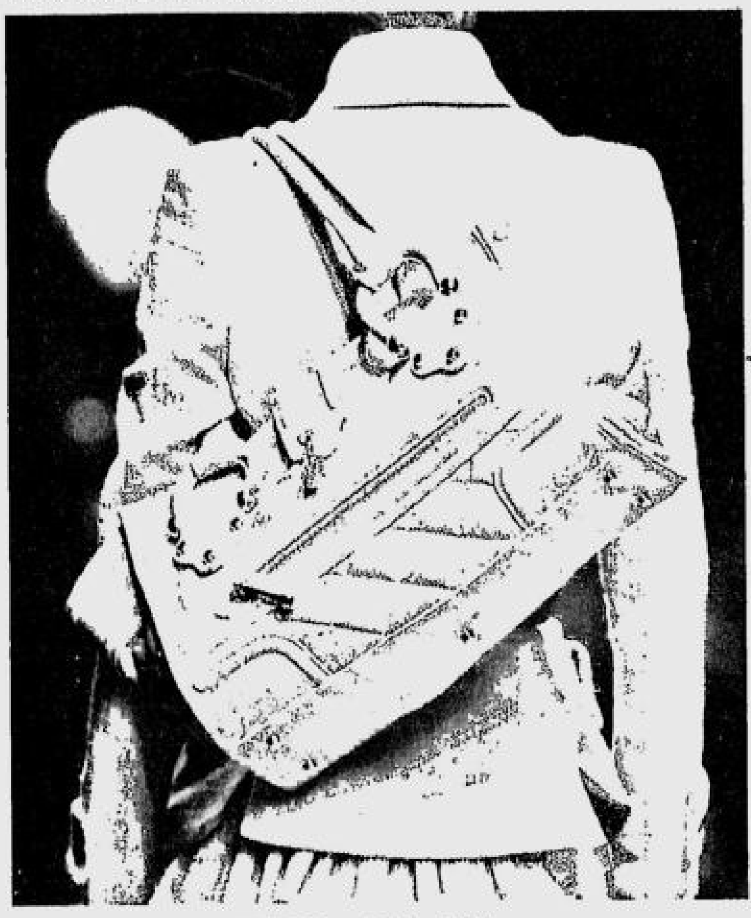
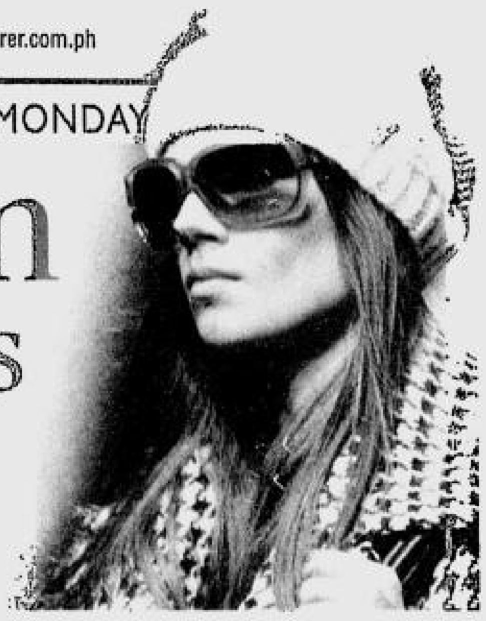


Iconic collection marks fashion house's 150th year



IN CELEBRATION OF ITS 150th anniversary, Burberry introduces its Icons Collection for Autumn 2006.

Previewed during the Burberry Prorsum Autumn Winter 2006/2007 show in Milan, the collection celebrates the company's rich heritage and archives. It showcases a portfolio of signature icons: the trench coat, gabardine fabric, D-ring buckles, Burberry check, quilting, as well as the signature equestrian knight device.

The collection revolves around new key accessory items, and is complemented by women's wear and men's wear groups.

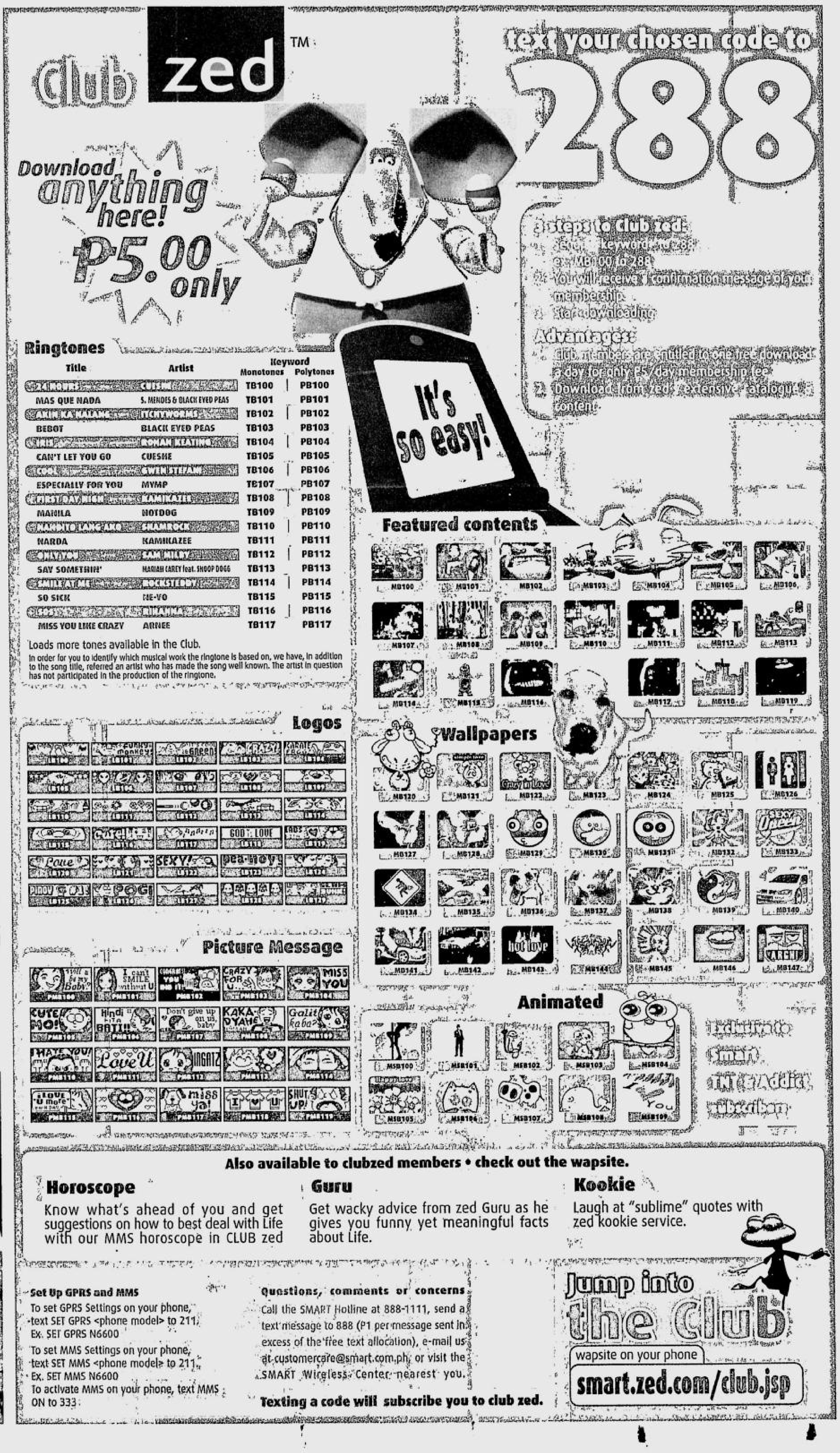
Quilting is key for the collection. The Burberry check as well as leather and nylon materials are featured in quilt on handbags, trench coats, jackets, shoes and small accessories.

In both ready-to-wear and accessories, the collection includes gabardine, which is the breathable, weatherproof and tear-proof fabric developed by Thomas Burberry in 1880. In 1914, Burberry was commissioned by the War Office to adapt its earlier weatherproof officer's coat for new combat requirements: Burberry added epaulettes and D-rings and the "trench coat" was born.

The trench D-ring buckle is a significant design detail in the collection. It is included on bags, belts, shoes and the trench coats.

The collection's color palette takes its inspiration from the iconic colors: trench, black, tan, red and oxblood.

In the Philippines, Burberry is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists, Inc. Burberry boutiques are in Greenbelt 4, Rustan's Makati and Shangri-La Plaza Mall.



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Title	Artist	Keyword Monotones	Keyword Polytones
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MAS QUE NADA	S. MENDES & BLACK EYED PEAS	TB101	PB101
AKIN KA NA LANG	ITCHYWORMS	TB102	PB102
BEBOT	BLACK EYED PEAS	TB103	PB103
IRIS	RONAN KEATING	TB104	PB104
CAN'T LET YOU GO	CUESHE	TB105	PB105
COOL	GWEN STEFANI	TB106	PB106
ESPECIALLY FOR YOU	MYMP	TB107	PB107
FIRST DAY HIGH	KAMIKAZEE	TB108	PB108
MANILA	HOTDOG	TB109	PB109
NANDITO LANG AKO	SHAMROCK	TB110	PB110
NARDA	KAMIKAZEE	TB111	PB111
ONLY YOU	SAM MILBY	TB112	PB112
SAY SOMETHIN'	MARIAH CAREY feat. SNOOP DOGG	TB113	PB113
SMILE AT ME	ROCKSTEDDY	TB114	PB114
SO SICK	NE-YO	TB115	PB115
SOS	RIHANNA	TB116	PB116
MISS YOU LIKE CRAZY	ARNEE	TB117	PB117

Loads more tones available in the Club.

In order for you to identify which musical work the ringtone is based on, we have, in addition to the song title, referred an artist who has made the song well known. The artist in question has not participated in the production of the ringtone.

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Baroque meets rock n' roll

BOARDING SCHOOL. Paisley balloon-sleeve top, black tube dress, elastic waist belt

THE PUNKY DEBUTANTE LINE of Topshop's Autumn/Winter 2006 Collection merges the '80s new wave punk with '50s debutante prom dresses.

This is evident in full taffeta skirts teamed with cobweb-style mohair knits or brushed checks. Jackets and denims have more zips and chains, while corseted mini dresses meld with wide bright belts and oversized bows. Skirts and dresses can be worn with footless leggings, while flashy pinks, acid yellows and other bright snakeskin leather slither their way from shoes to bags in shades of sea blue and ultramarine.

Classic uniform staples mixed with old-school British aristocracy lend a sexy twist to the preppy Boarding School style. The look embraces slouchy tweed or masculine trousers matched with mustards, navy and bottle-green crisp shirt and tie combinations. You can also pair it with pinafore dresses, thick woolen knee-high socks and penny collar shirts, ankle or moccasin boots, or Mary Janes and biker buckle intermixes.

The mannish look is apt for those who seek unexpected takes on traditional men's waistcoats, slouchy slim cigarette trousers and tailored-cropped shorts. Taking on a new guise are crisp white shirts worn as oversized dresses girded with braces, basque-style belts and corsets. Redefined balloon-shaped sleeves give contrasting volume to slim leg pants that are slinkier in viscose, teamed with a wide leg look.

New Minimal's clean lines, influenced by the structures and shapes of the psychedelic '60s, focuses on the sharp black-and-white graphic monochromes of pop art. Materials used include honeycomb, waffle-effect fabric, smock, pleats and lines, as well as trapeze-line coats and quilted jackets worn over checked mini dresses and skirts that clasp the new ovoid silhouette.

Mini dresses are paired with heavy shoes. T-bar and patent shoes are perfect with thick-colored tights, while pleated white blouses look great with flashes of chartreuse green, cranberry or blue.

A mix of frills and lace de-prettified by super-skinny trousers and shrunken tuxedo-style jackets, meanwhile, define Topshop's Baroque and Roll, which evokes the swinging '70s glam. Nudes and dusty roses, eyelet lace and other embellishments accent an otherwise monochrome collection.

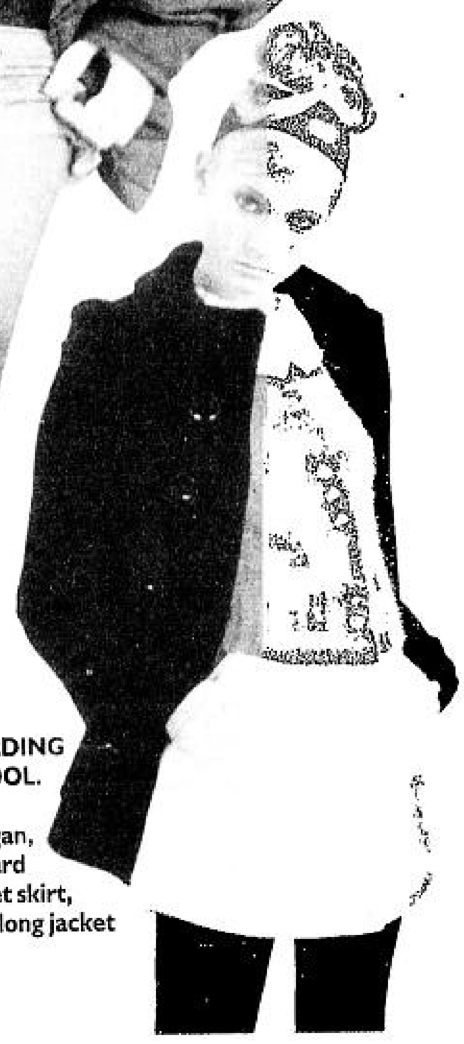
Finally, Urban Couture presents nylon parkas, bomber and short puff jackets in shades of green, over delicate jerseys and long-line sweater dresses.

Topshop is in Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Manila, Shangri-La Mall, Glorietta 2, The Podium, Power Plant Mall, Alabang Town Center and SM Mall of Asia.

NEW MINIMAL. Pleated balloon-sleeve top, bow-front pencil skirt, leopard-print clutch

PUNKY DEBUTANTE. Half-sleeved print dress, black corset

URBAN COUTURE. Lyocel roll neck, peached V jumper, navy bomber, spot clutch


BOARDING SCHOOL. Knit cardigan, mustard pelmet skirt, black long jacket

Casual dressing, SanFo style

VanNess Ave
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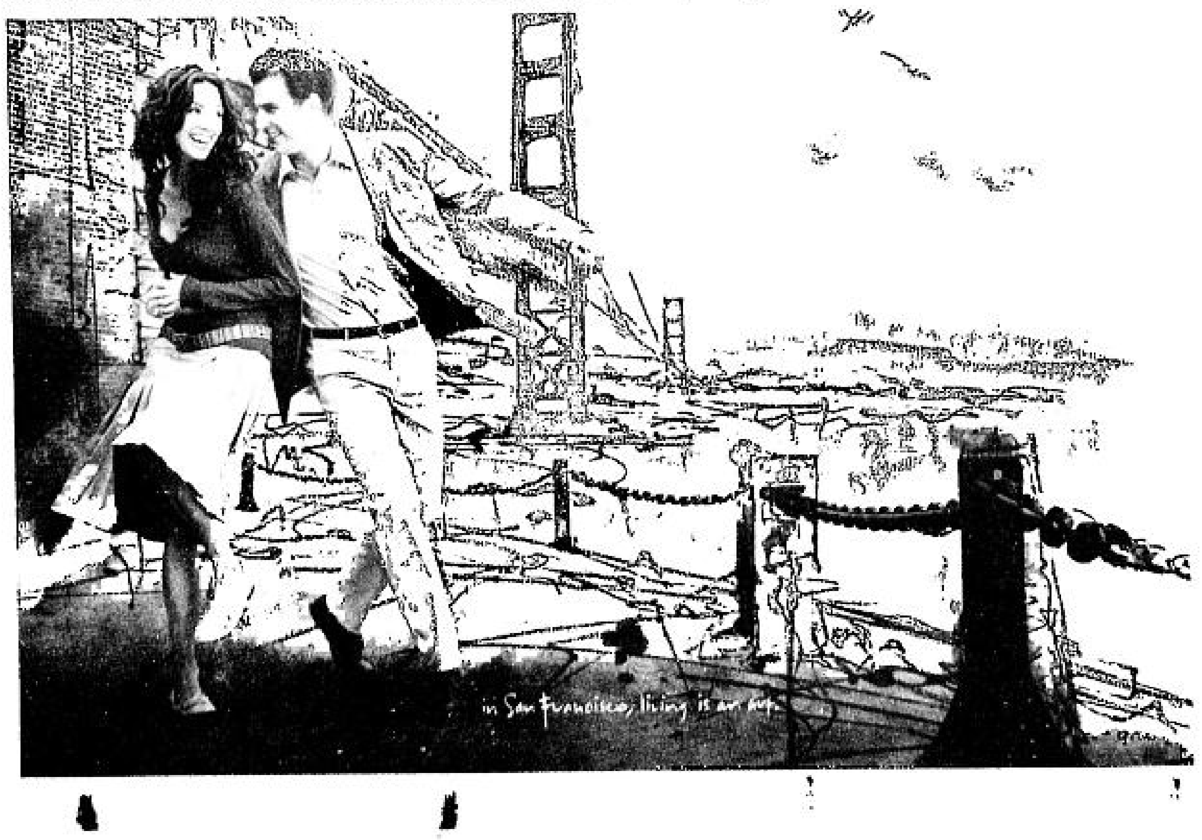
& Market
in San Francisco, living is an art.
ROMANCE and art in new Dockers campaign: "In San Francisco, Living Is Art"


in San Francisco, living is an art.

DOCKERS SAN FRANCISCO launches a new print campaign with the tagline, "In San Francisco, living is an art."

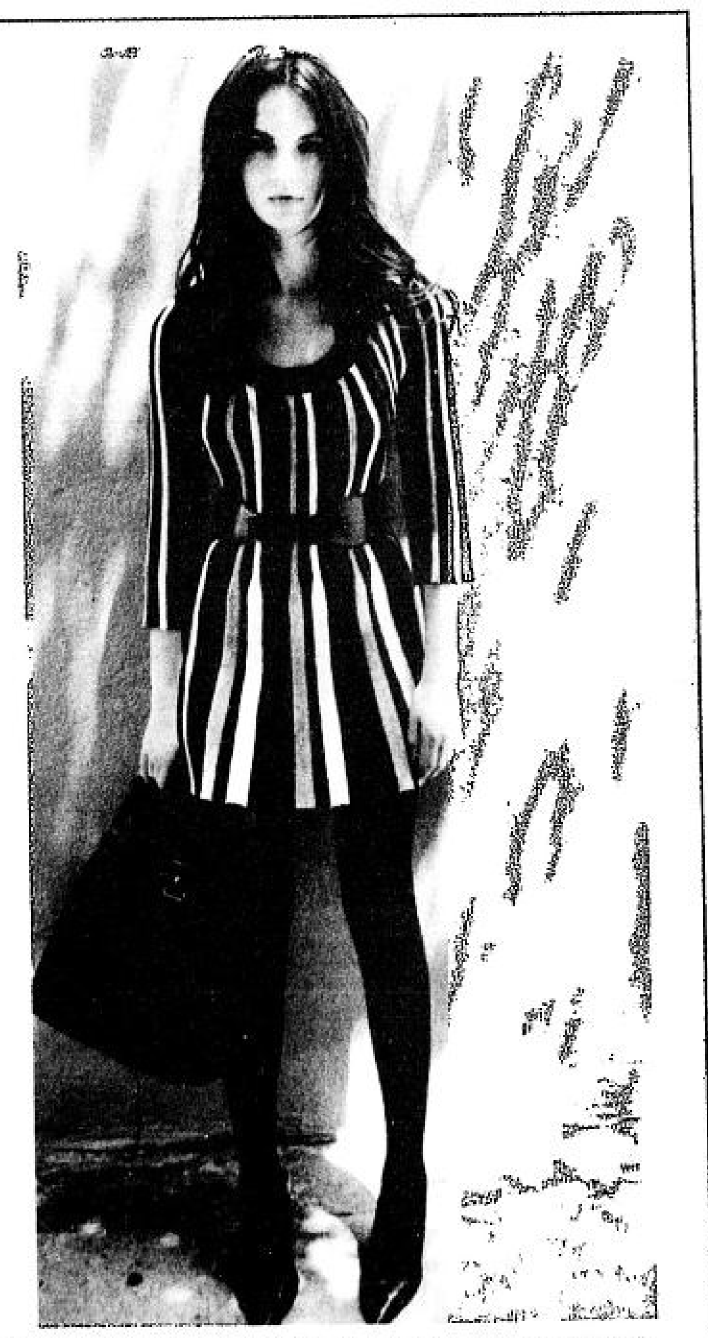
The campaign features images of intimate situations that emphasize the stylish, comfortable, fun and spontaneous spirit of the label, grounded in the casual lifestyle of San Francisco.

"Through research, consumers tell us that art and romance are two elements they strongly connect to San Francisco—the home of Dockers San Francisco. This campaign, with its contemporary, fun, artistic depiction of romance in the city, truly captures the lifestyle and spirit of the Dockers San Francisco brand," said David Smith, vice president of Dockers San Francisco brand, Levi Strauss Asia-Pacific based in Singapore.

The print campaign is set against iconic Frisco landmarks: the Golden Gate Bridge, tram cars, scenic hills, the Palace of Fine Arts.

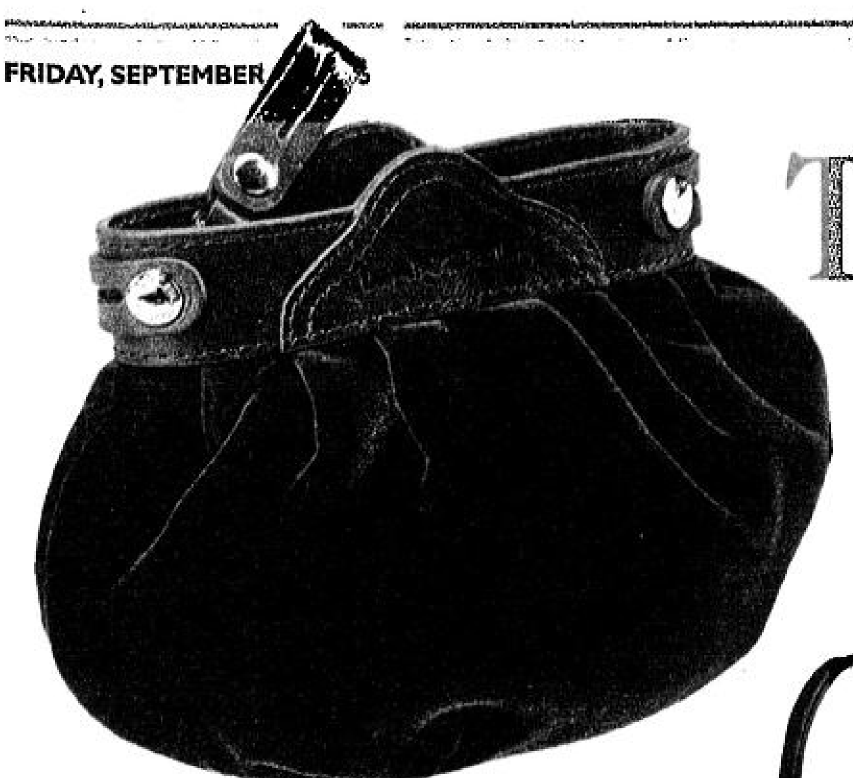
Dockers San Francisco offers everything from casual, stylish separates for a picnic in the park, to business-casual pieces. The separates are woven with luxurious fabrics marked with signature styling details.

First introduced in 1986 to fill the void between jeans and dress pants, Dockers San Francisco has expanded from a line of men's khakis to an ensemble brand featuring complete collections of casual pants with complementing tops and accessories.



UK FASHION STORE TO OPEN FIRST BRANCH
Warehouse, a high street brand that is a buzzword in London and other cities, is opening its first store in October at The Podium. The fashion line is always a step ahead in emerging trends, creating seasonal themes perfect for the stylish female. Warehouse will introduce cutting-edge dressing that is all about attitude, not age, characteristics that make the brand one of the most sought-after clothing labels in the United Kingdom. Warehouse is brought to the Philippines by Robinsons Specialty Stores, Inc., which is also the exclusive franchise licensee of Topshop, Topman, Dorothy Perkins and Wallis in the country.

Traditional yet trendy



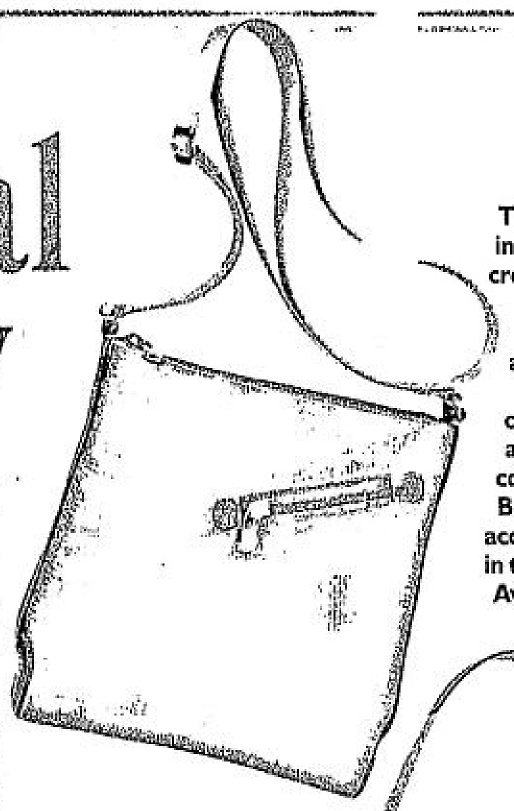
THE FINEST LEATHERS, SMOOTH OR grained, take on forms of elegance and delicacy for French leather goods brand Lancel.

They bespeak of luxury and a certain interior quality.

Lancel products combine tradition and modern styling, keeping abreast of changes in taste and fashion.

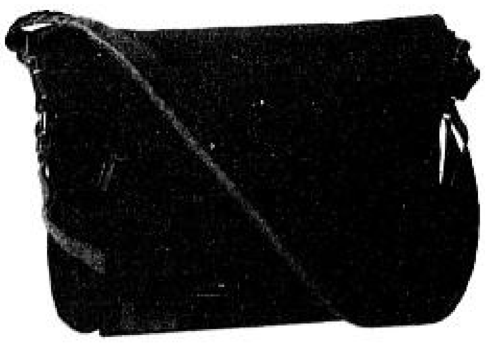
Lancel Paris boutiques are exclusively operated by Riviera Retail Inc. Prices are available upon request at the following branches: Lancel Paris boutique, Shangri-La Mall, Mandaluyong City (6319775); Glorietta 4, Makati City (8178875).

TOTALLY romantic pleated bags (Katarina de Lancel) with rounded shapes evoke the season's very fashionable puffball skirts. Available in rich colors of black, ruby and amethyst, their sensual softness is perfect for day or night. Both the pouch and the shoulder bag come in full grain calfskin leather trimmed with velvet.

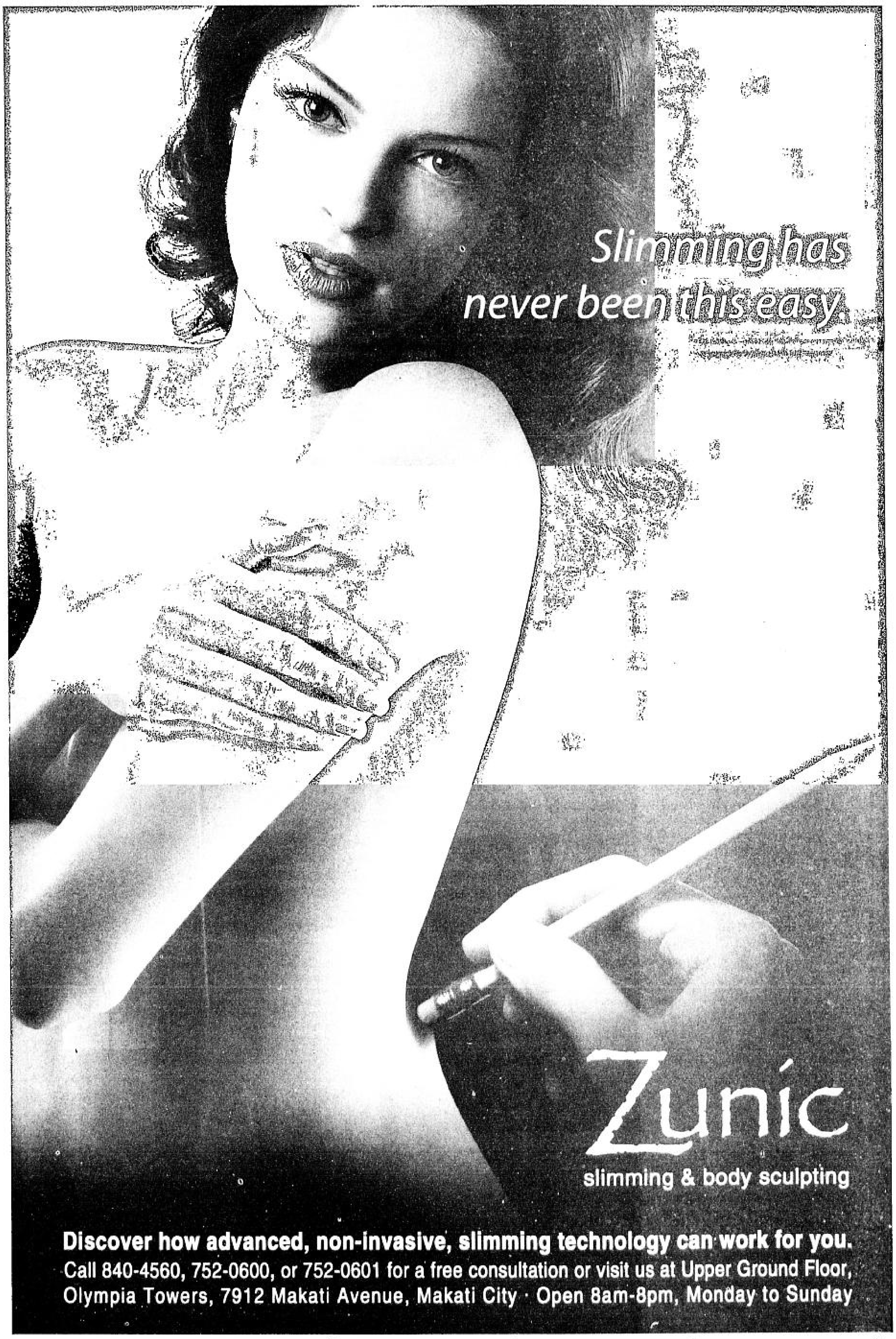


TEXTILE meets leather in these Laure de Lancel crossed pouch, hobo and document/computer briefcase. These bags are lightweight, supple and practical. The computer briefcase has a protective removable cover in neoprene foam. Battery, mouse or other accessories can be stored in the two inside pockets. Available in black, beige, blush, prussia, moss green and storm.

NYLON canvas Dimitri de Lancel hobo and reporter bags are sporty, urban and packed with practical features—zipped pockets for accessories, detachable elastic straps for keys. Available in brown, black and slate blue.



TRAVEL COMPANIONS
Cabin-size Pepino de Lancel travel bag and large toilet bag in nylon canvas trimmed with cowhide. Available in black, prussian and blush.



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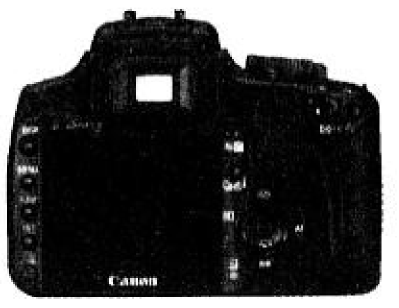
A Champion in Its Own Class

Canon unveils New EOS 400D DSLR



Canon recently announced the release of the EOS 400D, holding a launch party at the Rockwell Loft, last September 19 which was well attended by photography enthusiasts and media representatives. Cocktails and free flowing drinks were served as Canon provided the guests with a fashion show, raffle prizes, and special promos for the night.

The EOS 400D is Canon's first DSLR camera equipped with the new EOS Integrated Cleaning System – Canon's comprehensive measure to minimize the effects of dust on images. Featuring Canon's renowned 10.1-Megapixel CMOS sensor, powerful DIGIC II imaging processor and 3-layer Optical Low Pass Filter, the EOS 400D captures superb, professional-quality images with wide dynamic range and low noise. The EOS 400D uses Canon's EF lens mount that is compatible with the world's largest lens system of over 60 Canon EOS EF and EF-S interchangeable lenses for endless photographic possibilities. The complete EOS system also includes an extensive range of accessories such as the acclaimed E-TTL II flash metering system to match users' growing needs, with promise of immense scalability of their camera system.

"The new EOS 400D DSLR camera is a testament of Canon's continued commitment to provide photographers with the high quality and technologically advanced tools they need to excel in their craft," said Ramon Arteficio, Canon President and CEO.

Minimize the effects of dust on images

Usually when lenses are changed, dust may settle on the first low pass filter in front of CMOS sensor, and appears as unwanted specks and shadows on the photograph, which later requires digital retouching. Canon's new EOS Integrated Cleaning System (EOS I.C.S.) offers both hardware (Self Cleaning Sensor Unit) and software (Dust Delete Function) approach to fight dust. The Self Cleaning Sensor Unit uses piezoelectric element to generate ultrasonic vibrations in the first optical low pass filter in front of the CMOS sensor to shake off dust. Sticky dust ('difficult dust') is made inconspicuous in taken images using the Dust Delete Function with the Digital Photo Professional 2.2 software.

Capture more details

EOS 400D uses a high performance APS-C sized 10.1-Megapixel CMOS sensor with effective pixels of 3,904 x 2,598, offering a wide dynamic range and lifelike colour reproduction. It is also capable of superb image capture with excellent resolution, sharpness and clarity. The sensor possesses high light sensitivity, offering a wide range of ISO speeds from 100 to 1600. The ESO 400D also comes with an on-chip noise reduction circuitry on the sensor that is found in higher end models to capture high quality images with low noise.

The 3-layer Optical Low Pass Filter (LPF) helps to minimise false colours and moiré. The LPF also incorporates a hybrid infrared cut filter, which uses an infrared absorbent glass to prevent false red colouration caused by infrared light.

"The new Canon EOS 400D, with unmatched versatility and unparalleled features, is the perfect tool for serious hobbyists or advanced amateurs in the DSLR category. It boasts of high performance and gives you greater control over your images, capturing the slightest and smallest detail," Mr. Arteficio adds.

DIGIC II Imaging Processor

Canon's DIGIC II imaging processor provides ultra-fast processing speeds and reproduces images of exceptional quality with faithful colour reproduction and stunning clarity. The camera can capture fast moving action with a fast start-up time of a mere 0.2 second and continuous shooting speed at a rapid 3 frames per second with maximum burst of 27 frames (JPEG Type- Large/Fine setting). Its fast processing speed also enables extremely responsive camera operations that ensure users never miss a photo opportunity.

Intelligent Focusing, Lighting and Exposure Control

EOS 400D comes with a high precision 9-point AF system for extraordinary precise focusing in all shooting conditions. With any f/2.8 or larger aperture lens, the centre AF point works as a high-precise cross-type sensor for fast precise shooting. Its Auto White Balance (AWB) produces natural colouration by measuring the entire frame of each scene and matches the white balance to the light source. EOS 400D also comes with 7 other white balance settings, such as Tungsten, for shooting in different lighting conditions. The DSLR has three metering modes - Evaluative, Centre-weighted Average and Partial - for optimum exposure control.

The New 'Digital Film'

The Picture Style function provides photographers with 6 intuitive presets optimised for different types of photography such as portraits and landscapes. Users can further fine tune processing parameters such as sharpness, contrasts, colour tone and colour saturation to achieve different photographic expressions.

Ease Of Use & Operability

EOS 400D comes with an extensive range of creative and basic shooting modes to achieve professional images instantly under different environments. Its new user-friendly User Interface (UI) and wide selection of enhanced shooting, playback and recording functions make operating EOS 400D effortless. It also comes with a large 2.5-inch LCD monitor (approx.230, 000 pixels) with 160° wide viewing angle for easy viewing.

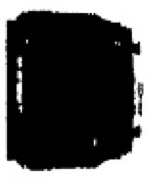
Printing & Connectivity

Canon EOS 400D is PictBridge-compatible for camera-direct printing and features USB 2.0 Hi-Speed connectivity for faster file transfers. When used with a compatible Canon PictBridge printer, a full range of PictBridge functions are available for enhanced printing possibilities.

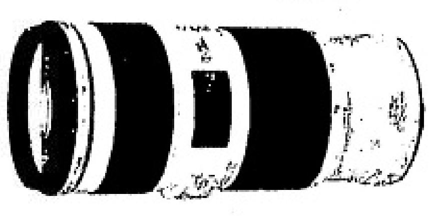
Optional Accessories & Software

Software bundled together with the Canon EOS 400D includes the EOS Digital Solution Disk 13.0 and Digital Photo Professional 2.2 for processing and alteration of images. Optional accessories to partner with EOS 400D include the Battery Grip (BG-E3) for EH18-L semi-hard case.

Release of Two High Performance New Lenses



In conjunction with its latest digital SLR release, Canon has released two new high performance lenses with optimised lens elements positioning and lens coating to minimize flare and ghosting effects. Both lenses are designed with dust and moisture proof structures for rugged outdoor operations.



The long awaited EF 50mm/f1.2 L USM is an ultra large aperture lens targeted at professionals and advanced amateur users looking to attain high resolution/contrast images. Featuring a circular aperture, this lens produces excellent background blur for stunning portrait and wedding photography. Being part of Canon's premium "L" series, EF 50mm/f1.2 L USM guarantees superb image quality.The other lens released is the EF 70-200 f/4.0 L IS USM, a powerful telephoto zoom lens equipped with an Image Stabilizer, which operates at an equivalent of 3 shutter speed increments and effectively counteracts camera shake.

Suggested retail price of the Canon EOS 400D is PhP 48,500 for a kit with an EF-S 18-55mm Lens.

Canon invites you to visit R. Hidalgo St. Quiapo, Manila for the 3-day Rummage Sale September 29 - October 1, 2006.

EOS 400D
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400D DIGITAL

Digital EOS unveils a new champion. Harnessed by Canon's 70 years of expertise, the new EOS 400D features exemplary imaging innovations and promises class-topping performance while retaining user-friendliness. Together with Canon's EF lens system, this digital SLR stands for power and versatility -- making it the perfect choice for photography enthusiasts everywhere.

10.1 Megapixel CMOS Sensor

The EOS 400D's all-new sensor has a wide range of ISO speed settings (100–1600) for superb image capture and advanced on-chip noise reduction circuitry for picture clarity.

EOS Integrated Cleaning System (EOS I.C.S.)

The EOS 400D's Self Cleaning Sensor Unit's ultrasonic vibrations repel dust particles. Plus the 'Dust delete Function' detects dust and renders it inconspicuous with the Digital Photo Professional software provided.

Before sensor cleaning and dust delete
With EOS Integrated Cleaning System

World's Largest Range of Over 60 AF Lenses

The EOS 400D pairs up with Canon's interchangeable EF lens system and has a wide array of accessories to enhance your creativity and shooting experience.

Picture Style

Canon's Picture Style function has 6 pre-set yet customizable settings that control sharpness, contrast and saturation to emulate the characteristics of various film styles.

Fast and powerful DIGIC II Imaging Processor

Self Cleaning Sensor Unit repels dust particles

High-precision 9-point AF System (Center: f/2.8)

3 fps continuous shooting with max. 27 shot burst*

2.5" LCD with wide viewing angle

Improved User Interface (UI) for easy operations

*JPEG type (large/fine).

Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc.
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MAS MASARAP NA NESCAFÉ CLASSIC

Who will be the next Charo Ronquillo?

RONQUILLO'S winning walk made her the first Asian model in 25 years of the Supermodel competition to land in the Top 3, bagging a $100,000 modeling contract with Ford Models Inc.

CHARO RONQUILLO BROKE INTO THE international fashion circuit after winning second runner-up and bagging a US$100,000 modeling contract during the Ford Supermodel of the World finals last January in New York City. Her win is the first for an Asian in the 25-year history of the contest.

Based on what the previous Supermodel runner-up winners have achieved, Ronquillo may be the next Liliane Ferrarezi of Brazil, second runner-up in 2002, who is now the face of Spring-Summer Collection '06 campaign of Armani Exchange.

Other Ford Supermodel winners have accomplished much. Natalia Gotsiy of Ukraine (2003) landed on the covers of fashion bibles Elle and Marie Claire, and modeled for YSL Fragrance's Baby Doll. She also modeled for Carolina Herrera, Costume National, Diane von Furstenberg, Dior, Dolce & Gabbana, Dries van Noten, Gucci, Hermes, Issey Miyake, and John Galliano.

Ajuma Nasenyana of Kenya, 2003 fourth runner-up, has modeled for Alexander McQueen, Fendi, Just Cavalli, Viktor & Rolf, Vivienne Westwood, Baby Phat, Basso & Brooke, and Catherine Malandrino.

The 2004 winner, Camilla Finn of Brazil, was just 14 when she became Supermodel of the World, the youngest ever. She has done ads for Calvin Klein, Ralph Lauren and United Colors of Benetton. On her first season, she did 22 shows in New York and 11 in Milan.

Katsia Damankova of Belarus, 2005 winner, has done shows for Phi, Marc Jacobs, Tory Burch, Boudicca and Filipina designer

WHO WILL/ D4

HISPANIC-looking Charo Ronquillo for Nanette Lepore at New York Fashion Week '06

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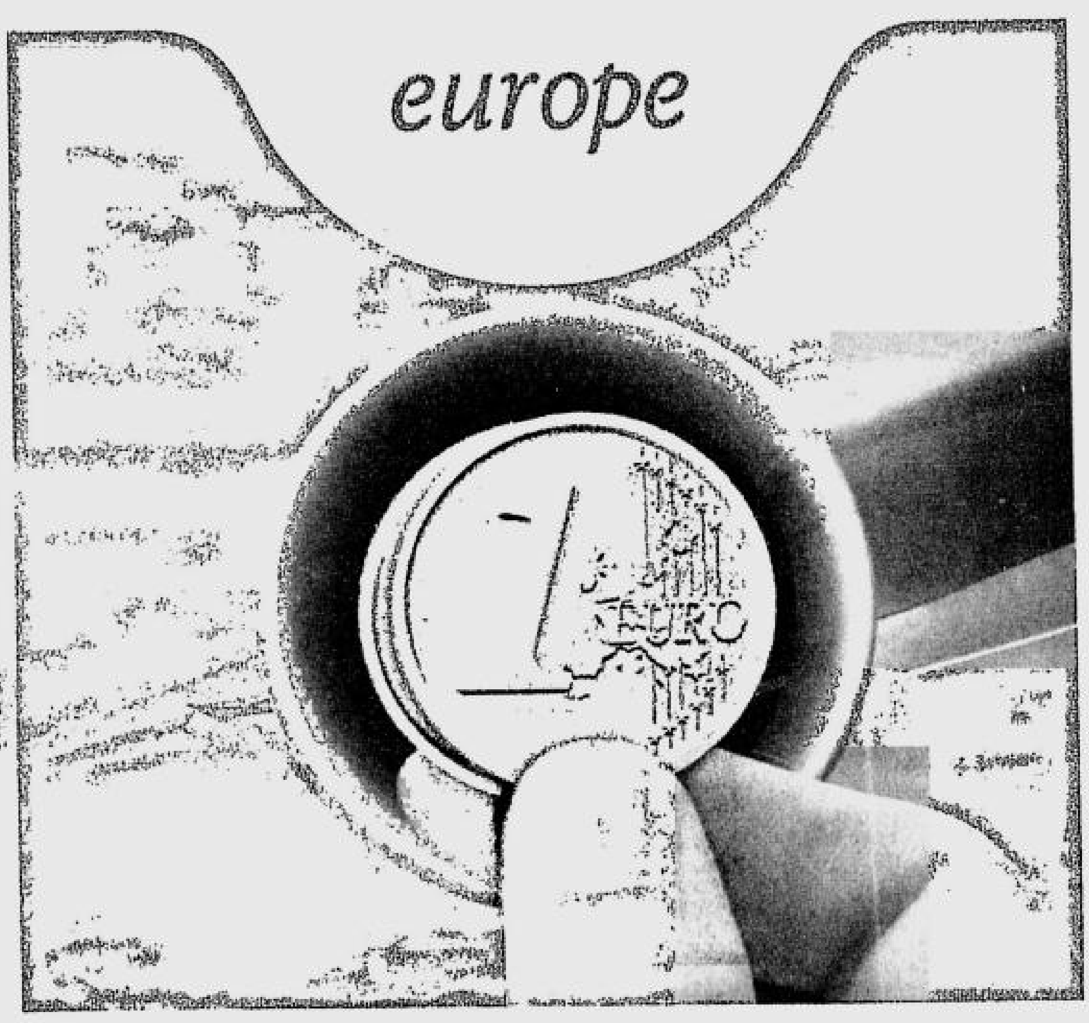

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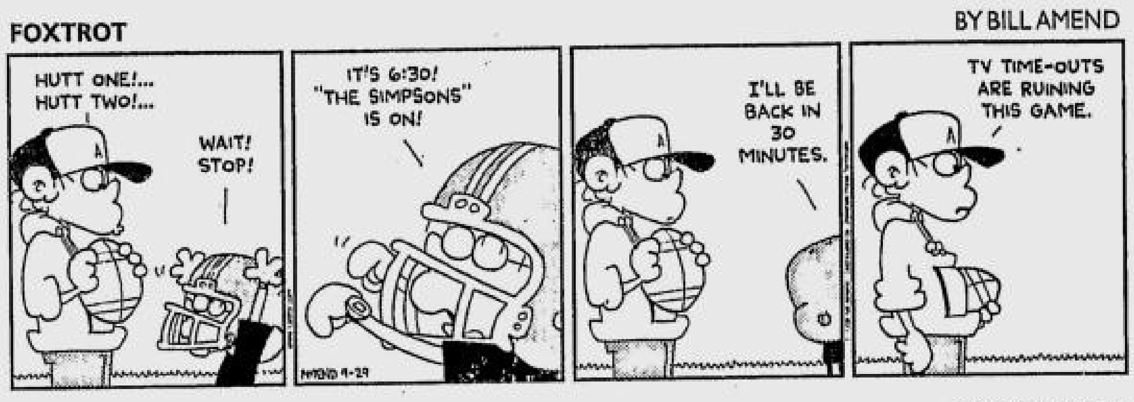
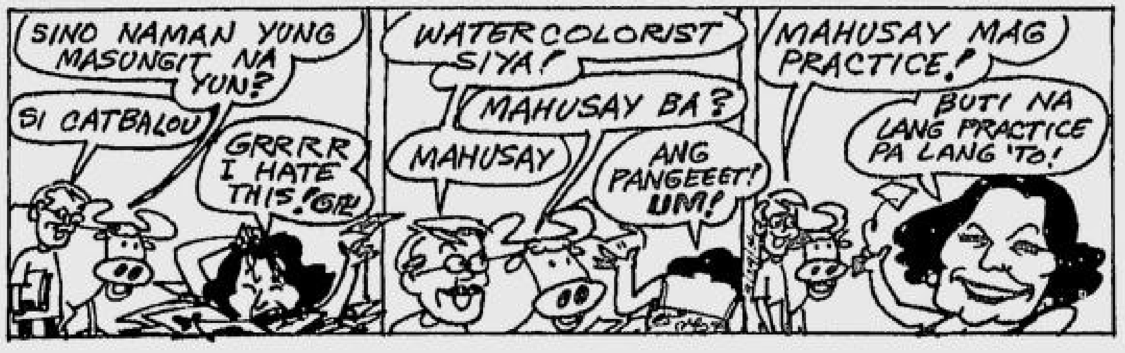
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


HUTT ONE!... HUTT TWO!...
WAIT! STOP!
IT'S 6:30! "THE SIMPSONS" IS ON!
AMEND 9-29
I'LL BE BACK IN 30 MINUTES.
TV TIME-OUTS ARE RUINING THIS GAME.

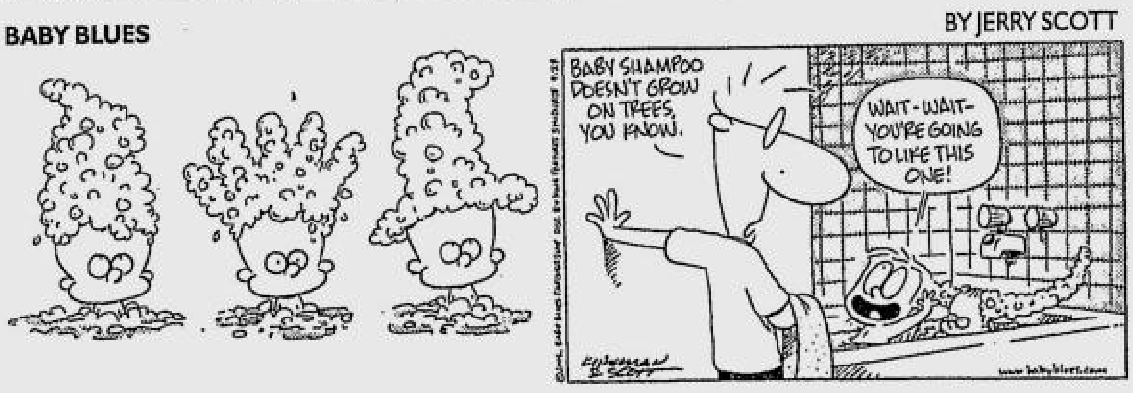
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


SINO NAMAN YUNG MASUNGIT NA YUN?
SI CATBALOU
GRRRR I HATE THIS! GR
WATERCOLORIST SIYA!
MAHUSAY BA?
MAHUSAY
ANG PANGEEET! UM!
MAHUSAY MAG PRACTICE!
BUTI NA LANG PRACTICE PA LANG 'TO!

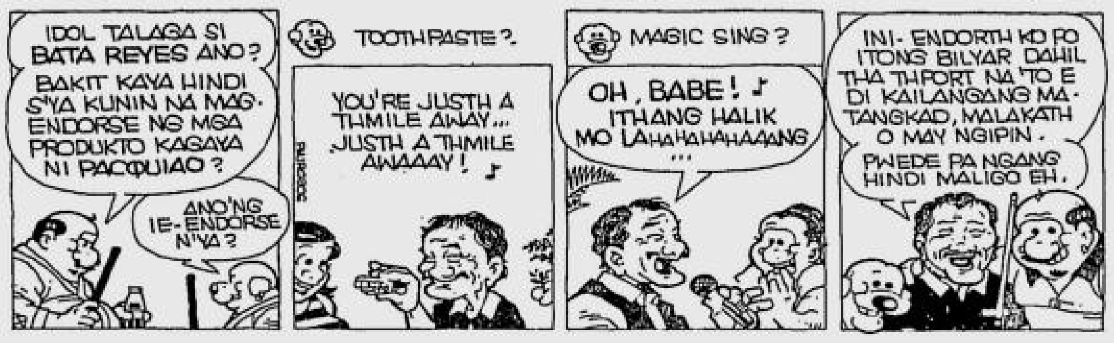
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


BABY SHAMPOO DOESN'T GROW ON TREES, YOU KNOW.
WAIT-WAIT-YOU'RE GOING TO LIKE THIS ONE!
KIRKMAN & SCOTT
www.babyblues.com

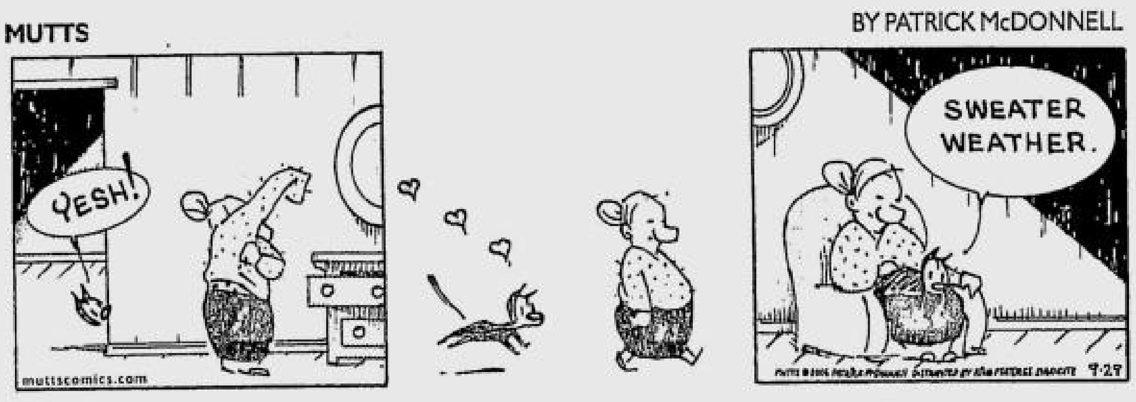
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


IDOL TALAGA SI BATA REYES ANO?
BAKIT KAYA HINDI S'YA KUNIN NA MAG-ENDORSE NG MGA PRODUKTO KAGAYA NI PACQUIAO?
ANO'NG IE-ENDORSE N'YA?
TOOTHPASTE?
YOU'RE JUSTH A THMILE AWAY... JUSTH A THMILE AWAAAY!
MAGIC SING?
OH, BABE! ITHANG HALIK MO LAHAHAHAHAAANG ...
INI-ENDORTH KO PO ITONG BILYAR DAHIL THA THPORT NA 'TO E DI KAILANGANG MATANGKAD, MALAKATH O MAY NGIPIN.
PWEDE PA NGANG HINDI MALIGO EH.

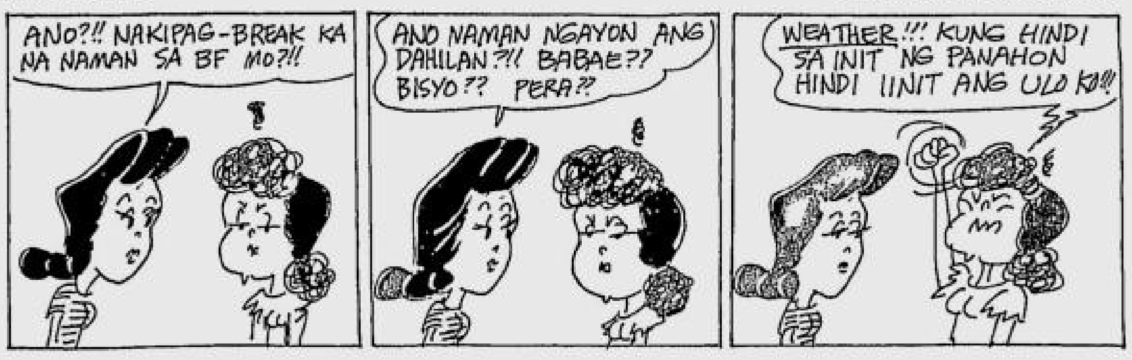
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


YESH!
SWEATER WEATHER.
mutts comics.com
9-29

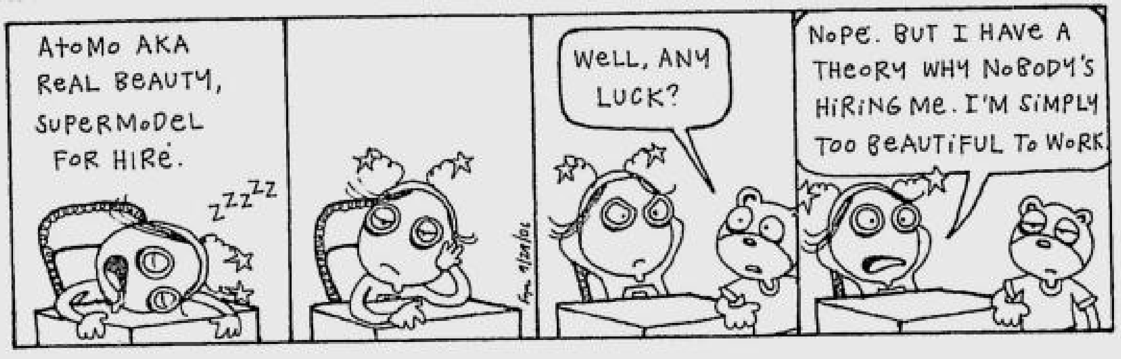
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ANO?!! NAKIPAG-BREAK KA NA NAMAN SA BF MO?!!
ANO NAMAN NGAYON ANG DAHILAN?!! BABAE?? BISYO?? PERA??
WEATHER!!! KUNG HINDI SA INIT NG PANAHON HINDI IINIT ANG ULO KO!!!

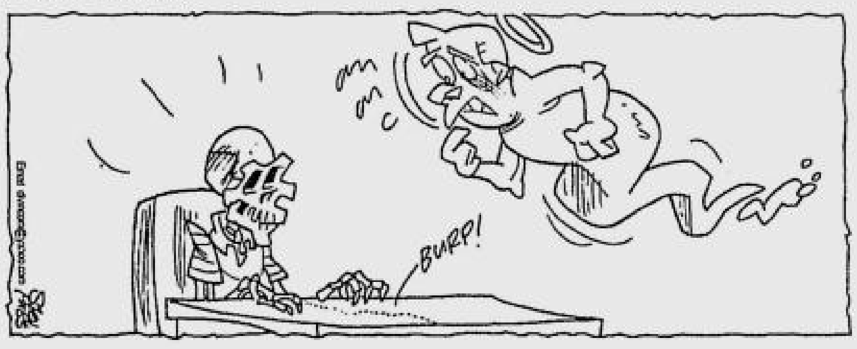
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


AtoMo AKA ReAL BEAUTY, SuPeRMoDeL FOR HiRE.
ZZZZZ
WeLL, ANY LUCK?
NoPe. BUT I HAVE A THEORY WHY NoBoDY's HiRiNG Me. I'M SiMPLY Too BeAUTiFUL To WoRK

DIVINE COMEDY

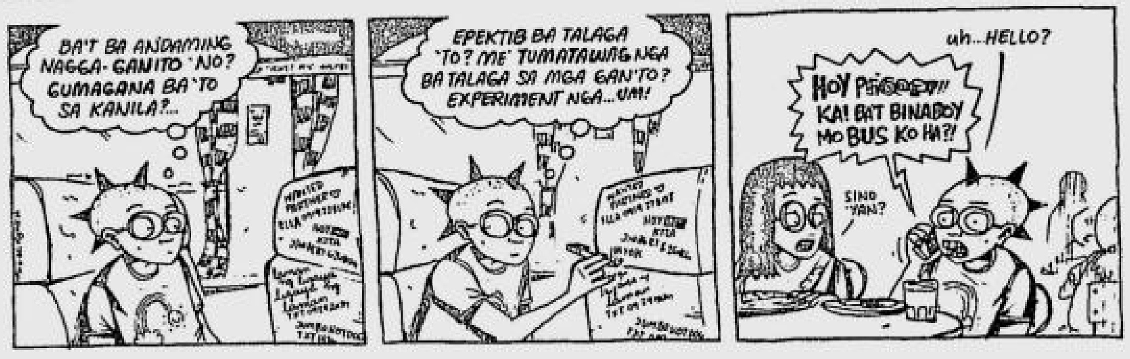
BY STEVEN PABALINAS



ISA SA PROBLEMANG HINAHARAP NG MGA PSYCHIC TUWING SILA AY MAG-"ASTRAL PROJECTION": BAKA KUNG BALIKAN NILA ANG KANILANG MGA KATAWAN, KALANSAY NA LANG ANG MADADATNAN NILA DAHIL KINAIN NA ITO NG MGA LANGGAM

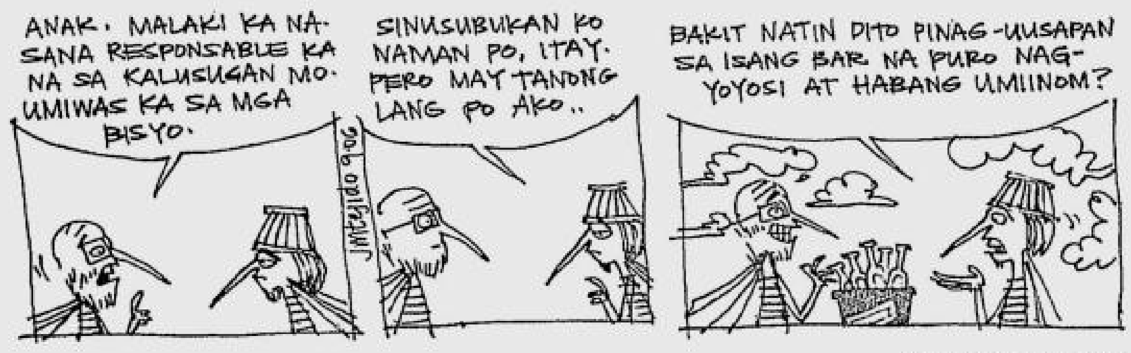
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


BA'T BA ANDAMING NAGGA-GANITO 'NO? GUMAGANA BA 'TO SA KANILA?...
EPEKTIB BA TALAGA 'TO? ME' TUMATAWAG NGA BA TALAGA SA MGA GAN'TO? EXPERIMENT NGA...UM!
uh...HELLO?
HOY P#@!! KA! BAT BINABOY MO BUS KO HA?!
SINO 'YAN?

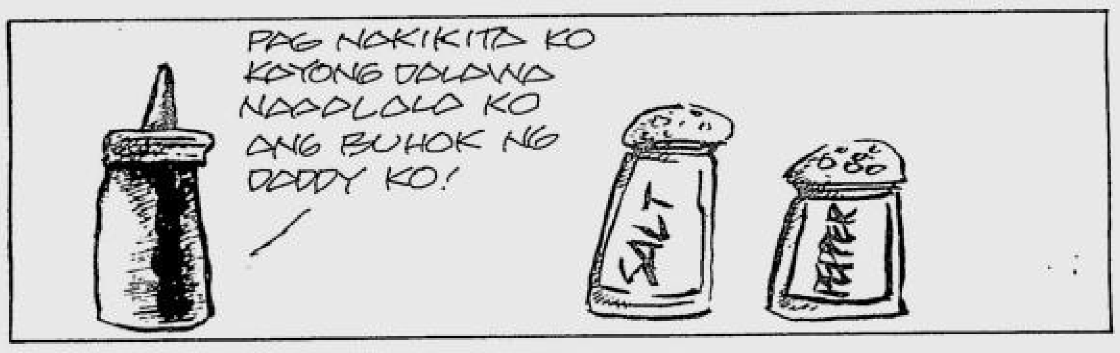
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ANAK. MALAKI KA NA. SANA RESPONSABLE KA NA SA KALUSUGAN MO. UMIWAS KA SA MGA BISYO.
SINUSUBUKAN KO NAMAN PO, ITAY. PERO MAY TANONG LANG PO AKO..
BAKIT NATIN DITO PINAG-UUSAPAN SA ISANG BAR NA PURO NAG-YOYOSI AT HABANG UMIINOM?

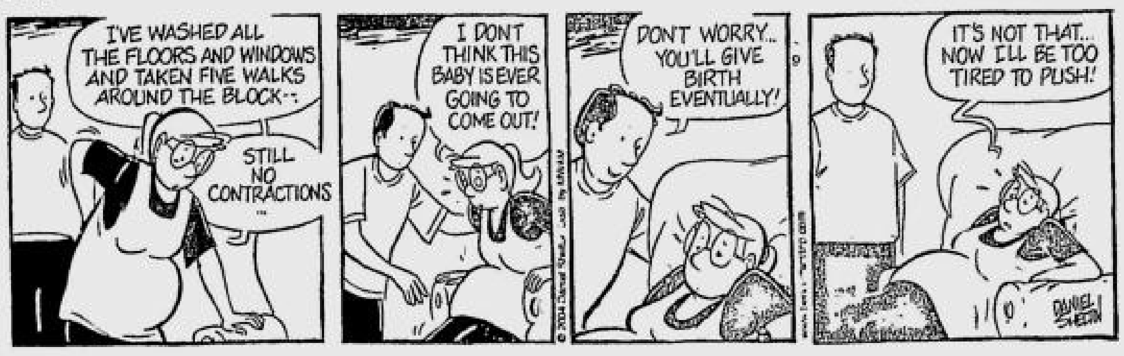
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

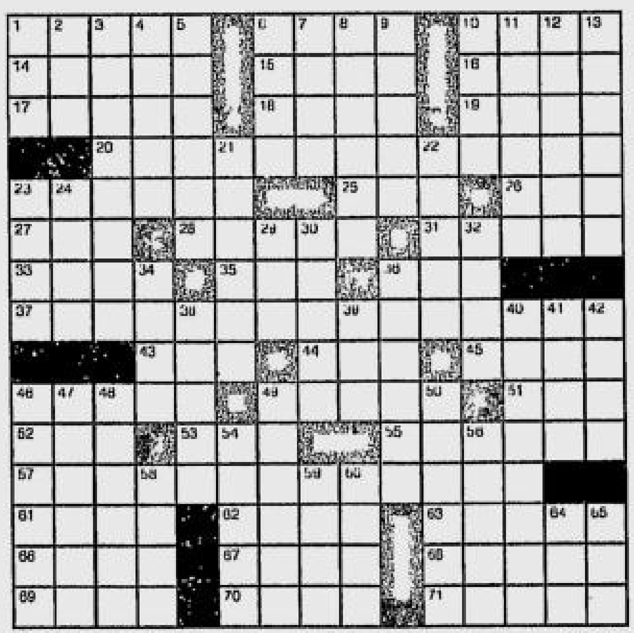

PAG NAKIKITA KO KAYONG DALAWA NAGPOLOLO KO ANG BUHOK NG DADDY KO!
SALT
PEPPER

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


I'VE WASHED ALL THE FLOORS AND WINDOWS AND TAKEN FIVE WALKS AROUND THE BLOCK...
STILL NO CONTRACTIONS
I DON'T THINK THIS BABY IS EVER GOING TO COME OUT!
DON'T WORRY... YOU'LL GIVE BIRTH EVENTUALLY!
IT'S NOT THAT... NOW I'LL BE TOO TIRED TO PUSH!
DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Diane C. Baldwin
Columbia, MD

9/29/06

ACROSS
1 Family men
6 Tooth display
10 Spiders' snares
14 Dancer Astaire
15 Top-notch
16 Idle or Clapton
17 "The Count of __ Cristo"
18 Scottish lake
19 John Wayne's nickname
20 Test drives?
23 Red table wine
25 Not talking
26 High explosive
27 Show of affection
28 Poet's forte
31 Sahara spring
33 Medicinal succulent
35 Romantic introduction?
36 Sing without words
37 Shows up?
43 Cul-de-__
44 Container with a tap
45 Patella's place
46 Trini or Jennifer
49 Grasp tightly
51 Roseanne's TV husband
52 King or mode lead-in
53 Teacher of Samuel
55 Prognostication
57 Tries out?
61 Old Nick's knack
62 Soft, French cheese
63 Housing contract
66 Place to skate
67 Ill-mannered
68 Calendar notations
69 Yields to gravity
70 Stat equivalent
71 Pricey

DOWN
1 Shriver or Dawber
2 Commotion
3 Five-sided figure
4 Table for worshipers
5 One on a quest
6 Dames
7 Place to hang a shingle
8 Financial gain
9 Indian statesman
10 Ties the knot
11 Bursts out
12 Two-piece suit
13 Fragrances
21 Cultural
22 Love on the Loire
23 Burn a bit
24 Dilly
29 Hankering
30 Snowboarder's bump
32 Out of control
34 Latin I verb
36 "__ and Her Sisters"
38 Demolishes
39 __ Lanka
40 Gently wave
41 Approach
42 Say it isn't so
46 Certain beers
47 __ Newton-John
48 Road making
49 Lemon, orange, etc.
50 Trade unions
54 Heavenly scales
56 Like Gatsby
58 BPOE members
59 Verdi opera
60 Bawl
64 Told ya!
65 Psychic letters

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

P	U	B		C	H	A	R	O	N		S	T	A	R
E	R	E		A	E	R	O	B	E		T	O	D	O
E	G	G		D	R	A	W	I	N	G	O	N	M	Y
L	E	S	S	E	E				E	R	O	T	I	C
			E	N	T	A	I	L		A	L	O	N	E
F	I	N	E	C	O	M	M	A	N	D				
A	S	I	D	E		I	P	S	E		A	M	A	T
M	A	K	E	D	O				O	B	L	I	G	E
E	Y	E	D		A	C	H	E		O	W	N	E	R
				O	F	L	A	N	G	U	A	G	E	I
C	L	A	S	P		U	N	D	U	L	Y			
A	L	L	I	E	S				N	O	S	I	E	R
S	A	I	D	N	O	T	H	I	N	G		S	T	E
K	N	E	E		W	H	I	T	E	N		A	T	E
S	O	N	S		N	O	M	O	R	E		O	A	K

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9/28/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're passionate and intense about whatever you do. Nothing is a halfway measure. Others see you as attractive and very capable. You work well with groups and have good organizational skills, plus the ability to manage others. You often have some kind of technical savvy. In the year ahead, something new and fresh will begin. Be open to all possibilities.

Birthdate of: Emily Lloyd, actress; Mackenzie Crook, actor; Jerry Lee Lewis, singer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You can learn a lot about yourself now from your closest friendships and partnerships. Observe your behavior. Watch how others react to you. See yourself reflected back to you in their eyes.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Because you have a lot of energy to work hard now, capitalize on this! Roll up your sleeves and get to work. It's always easiest to make hay while the sun shines.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Your creative energy is very hot. Artistic projects can flourish. Similarly, romance and love affairs are very exciting at this time. Lucky you!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You value your home. (All Cancers need a cozy nest.) This is the best time of year to strengthen family bonds and make where you live feel warm and comfortable.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You're on the go because you have a lot to do, plus you want to enlighten others about something. Conversations are upbeat. Not only are you eager to learn, you want to share what you learn.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You're full of moneymaking ideas right now. Furthermore, you can sell these ideas to others. People are willing to listen to you. (Great!)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): The Sun, Mercury and Mars are in your sign. This is extremely empowering! Make the most of this. People admire you, and opportunities come your way.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Work behind the scenes or in solitude if you can. Take every opportunity to rest. This is a good time to contemplate your navel.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Talk to friends, groups and professionals about your hopes and dreams for the future. Their feedback will be helpful. In fact, their input could open new doors for you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Relations with bosses, parents and VIPs are significant now. In large measure, this is because these people notice you. In fact, you impress them!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Do something different. Go someplace you've never been before. Do anything that will expand your experience of the world around you. Travel if you can.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You're giving a lot of thought to the wealth of your partner or the possessions of others. You need to know just how much you can count on from someone else.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

		1				5		
			3			8		
6	9			4				1
				1			8	
		7	8		3	9		
	5			9				
9				8			1	4
		3			5			
		4				7		

Difficulty Level ★★★★

9/29

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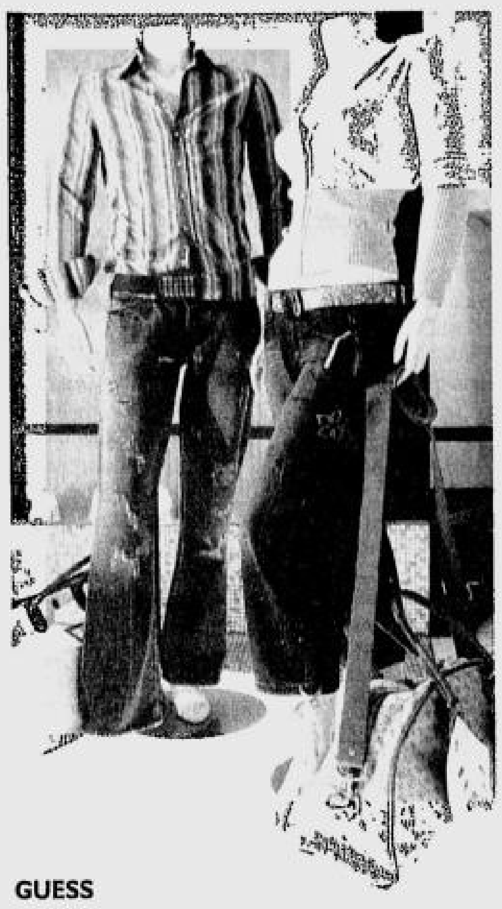
HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

8	4	5	2	6	7	1	3	9
3	6	7	1	5	9	4	8	2
1	2	9	4	8	3	6	5	7
4	1	3	7	2	5	9	6	8
6	7	2	8	9	4	5	1	3
9	5	8	6	3	1	7	2	4
7	8	1	5	4	2	3	9	6
5	9	6	3	7	8	2	4	1
2	3	4	9	1	6	8	7	5

Difficulty Level ★★★



GUESS

Colors take fashion by storm

THE RESURGENCE OF COLORS IN FASHION is a fresh break from black minimalism, inspiring bold new styles such as plaid prints, tasteful layering, and bold accessories.

Shangri-La Plaza brings the opulence of colors back to fashion in "Luxe Indulgences," a two-week fashion installation running at the Shangri-La Plaza Mall's Level 3 until Oct. 1.

"The fashion exhibition is inspired from modern contemporary lifestyle dressing infused with minimalism and geometric art," said chief stylist Luis Espiritu.

The first installation was featured until Sept. 18 and cast the spotlight on the latest day wear trends from Adidas Original Sports Heritage, Armani Exchange, Burberry, Fino, Footnotes, Guess, IInStyle (featuring Banana Republic and Mac and Jac), Kenneth Cole, Marks & Spencer, Mico, M)Phosis, Religioso, Tint and Velvet Rose.

Until Oct. 1, the installation will focus on luxury brands such as Anna Pashmina, Anne Klein, Boss Hugo Boss, Cole Haan, Debenhams, Episode, Escada, Expressions Fabric Square, Felicity, Homme et Femme, La Bagagerie, Laundry by Shelli Segal, Laurel, Mango, Nine West, Paul Smith, St. John, and Wallis.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4085 Series of 2006

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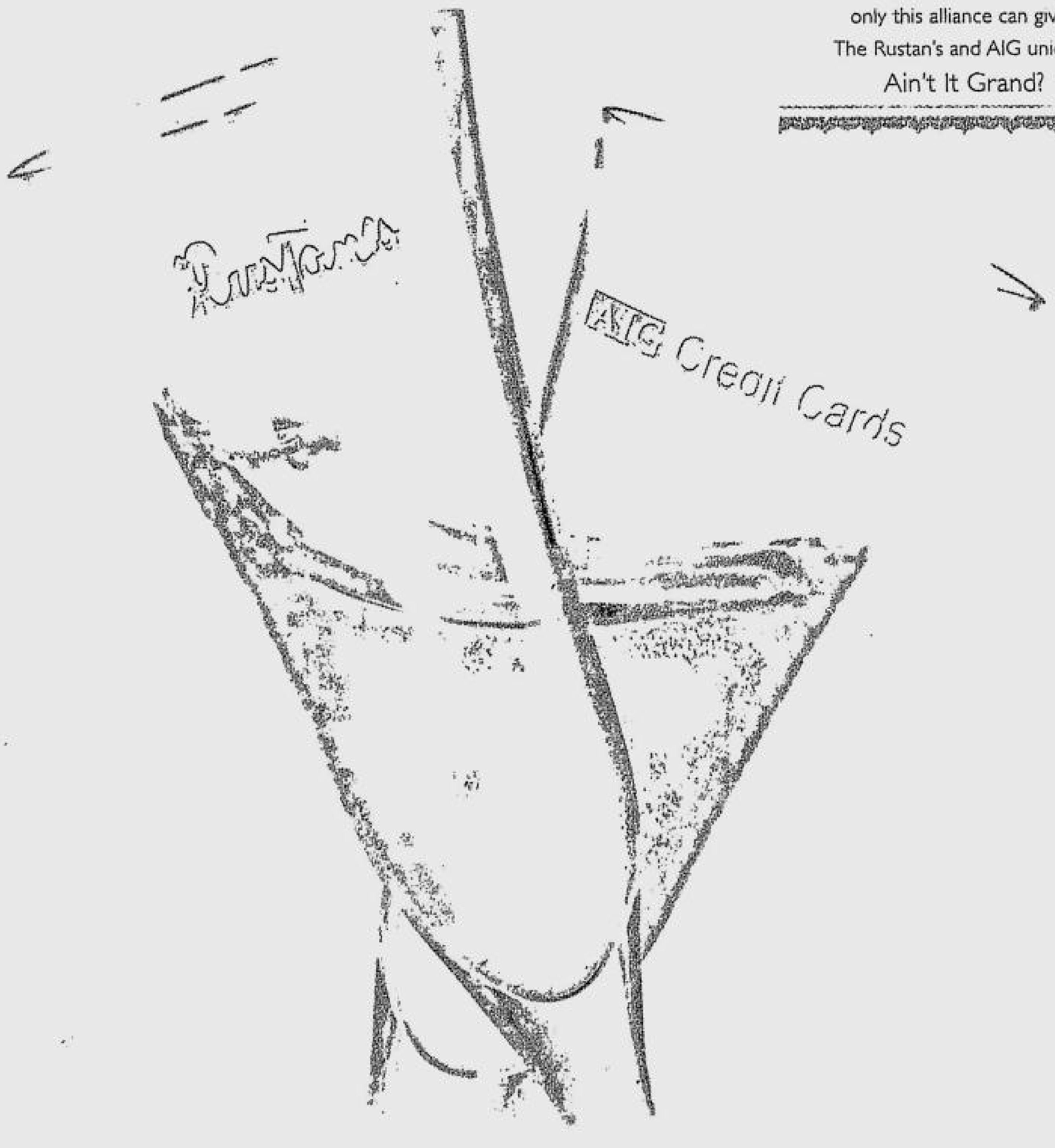
The Rustan's and AIG union--
Ain't It Grand?



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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2758, Series of 2006

SUPER MODEL
Super Model of the World
International Finals 2nd Runner-up
Charo Ronquillo

SONY Cybershot T9 campaign featuring the Filipina Ford Supermodel of the World 2nd runner-up

Who will be the next Charo Ronquillo?

From page D1

Monique Lhuillier plus an advertisement for Nexxus that appeared on Vogue and Allure three months after winning.

A Ford Supermodel win serves as a pass into the agency's roster of successful models. Immediately after winning the Philippine finals, Ronquillo was featured in the Sony Cybershot series of advertisements.

In the international scene, the 5-foot-9 stunner has been dubbed the "Asian Kate Moss," appearing on the hit reality TV program "Project Runway Season 2" (hosted by supermodel Heidi Klum).

Ronquillo did catwalks in the New York Fashion Week Fall-Winter '06 for such brands as Lacoste, Maria Cornejo, Nanette Lepore, Tori Burch and Lela Rose.

Fashion photographer Greg Sorensen, who has worked with Marie Claire, Elle, Cosmopolitan, GQ and Glamour, said, "Charo Ronquillo is primed for a brilliant career as a professional fashion model. Her ability to create fortuitous images transcends national borders. From her native Philippines to the fashion capitals of Europe, Charo is recognized for her skill both on the runway and in print work."

Michael Stein of Ford Paris said, "I can confidently testify that Charo's reputation has achieved international stature. She has reached a level where industry leaders now describe her as a star."

Who will be the next Filipina to follow in Ronquillo's footsteps?

The answer will soon be revealed as Runway Productions and CalCarries International Models Philippines prepare to stage the 2006 Ford Supermodel of the World Philippines competition.

After screenings in Bacolod, Dumaguete, Bicol, Cebu, Davao, Pampanga, and Metro Manila, Runway and CalCarries will send the photographs of the applicants to the Ford offices in New York and Paris. Out of these, 10 will emerge to vie for national finals next month.

New mall in Manila

GOINGS ON

AN OASIS-LIKE COURTYARD AND AN ALfresco dining area are some of the features of Robinsons Land Corporation's community mall development in Paco, Manila. The community mall will be part of a mixed-use development that includes Otis 888, an upscale property townhouse development on Otis Road. The two-level community mall on Paz Guanzon Street, Manila, will have a tenant mix composed of Robinsons Supermarket, Handyman Do-It-Best, a book store, drugstore, spa and salon, and a host of food outlets and family restaurants and service and convenience establishments. Call 6836179/6265/6345/100.

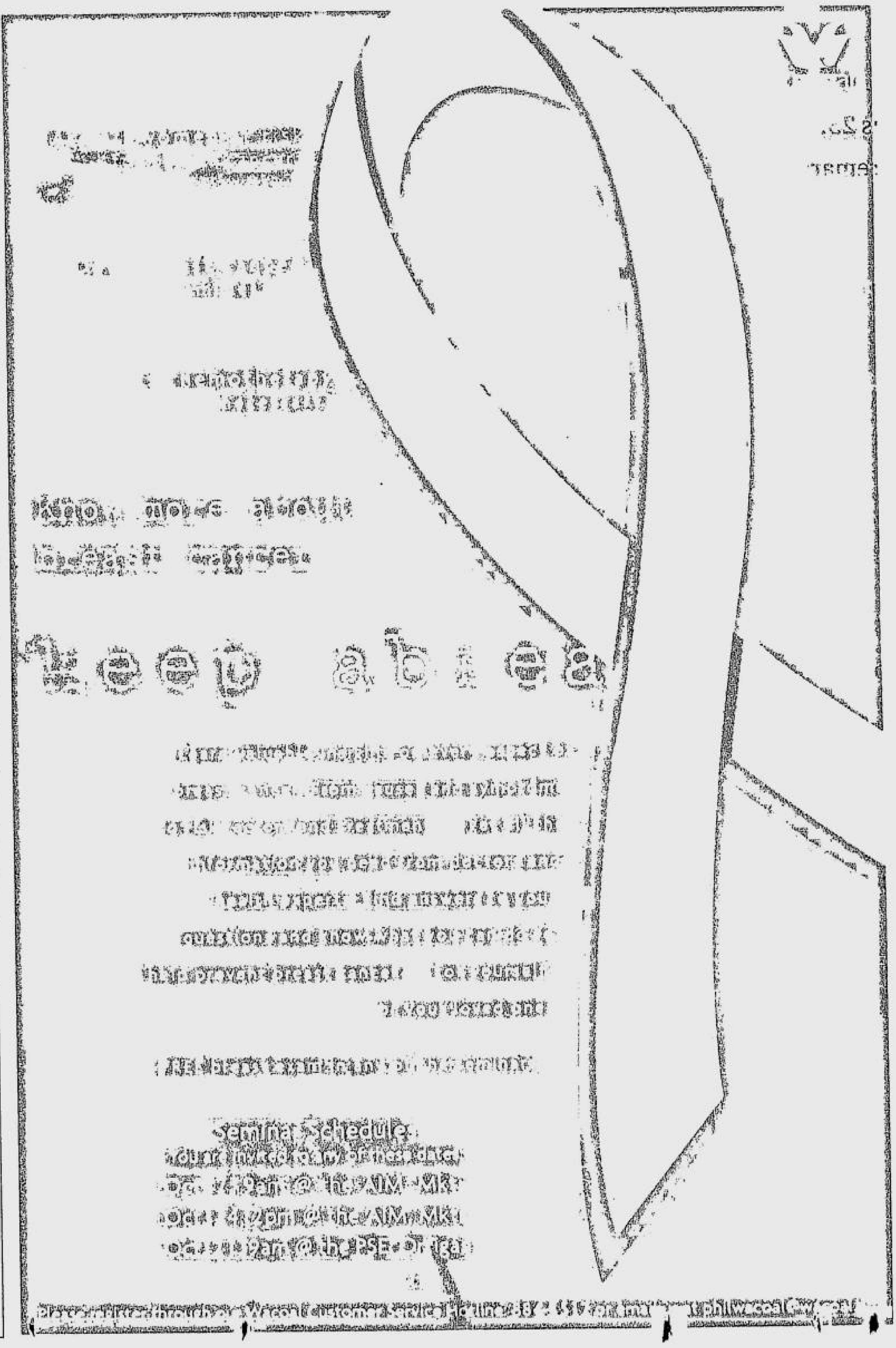
CHILDREN'S BOOKS. The Philippine Board on Books for Young People is now accepting entries for the 2007 PBBY-Salanga Prize. Entries (Filipino or English) should be intended for children 6-12 years old. Deadline for submission of entries is Oct. 16, 5 p.m. Call 3723548. Visit www.pbby.org.ph or e-mail pbby@adarna.com.ph.

AUCTION. Ang Ladlad, the national organization for lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgenders, will hold a fundraising auction Sept. 30, 5-8 p.m., at the National Museum of Manila. Call Danton Remoto at 0921-7843260 or e-mail danton_ph @yahoo.com.

BAZAAR. The 8th Angel Sent Bazaar will be held Oct. 21-22, Nov. 11-12, Dec. 2-3 and Dec. 16-17. The bazaar features gift items, fashion accessories, Christmas décor, arts and crafts. Call 8250804/3482.

BAZAAR. Worldbex Services International and ABS-CBN Foundation Inc. present the 6th World Bazaar Festival Dec. 7-17 at the World Trade Center. Call 5316350/6374 or e-mail info@worldbex.com.

CLASS REUNION. Class 1967 of the Masbate High School (now Masbate National Comprehensive High School) will have a 40th anniversary reunion May 19-20, 2007. Members of Class '67 may call or text Marina (Verano) Merioles, 0910-3595261; and Evelyn (Martires) Udaundo, 0928-3561480 or 4543934, for details.



[illegible]

keep abreast

[illegible]

Seminar Schedule

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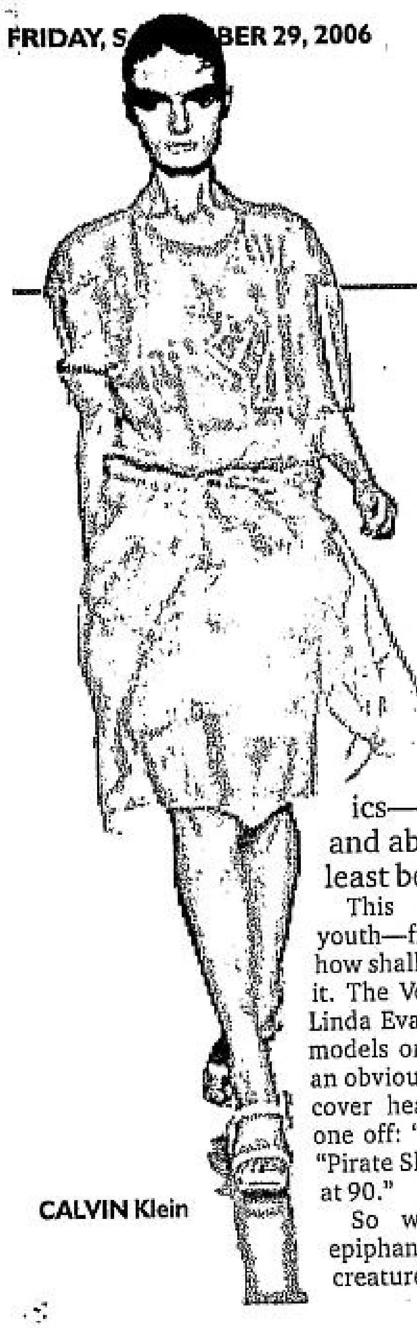
LIFESTYLE



CALVIN Klein

Fashion moving away from youth obsession?

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

THIS MAY BE EIther good news or bad news. But if you belong to the older demographics—women in their mid-20s and above—then this should at least be welcome news.

This era that's obsessed with youth—from fashion to lifestyle—is, how shall we put it, "de-obsessing" with it. The Vogue August issue, which put Linda Evangelista and her era of supermodels on the cover, should have been an obvious sign. Or, if it wasn't, then the cover headlines should have sounded one off: "Style Secrets From 20 to 93;" "Pirate Sleeves at 80;" "Pearls and Levi's at 90."

So what's going on? A sudden epiphany and acceptance that there are creatures on the planet older than Paris Hilton? No, simply economics.

Women's Wear Daily quoted a US study (by the Chicago Information Resources Inc.) that baby boomers (40-60 years old) have the highest discretionary income—25 percent—of the $100 billion total women's apparel sales. In contrast, the 21-34 years old are only 16 percent of the market, and the 35-44 years old only 12 percent.

This study confirms what many have been saying all along, in the US or here—the baby boomers who are peaking in their careers and in their personal lives are the spending market.

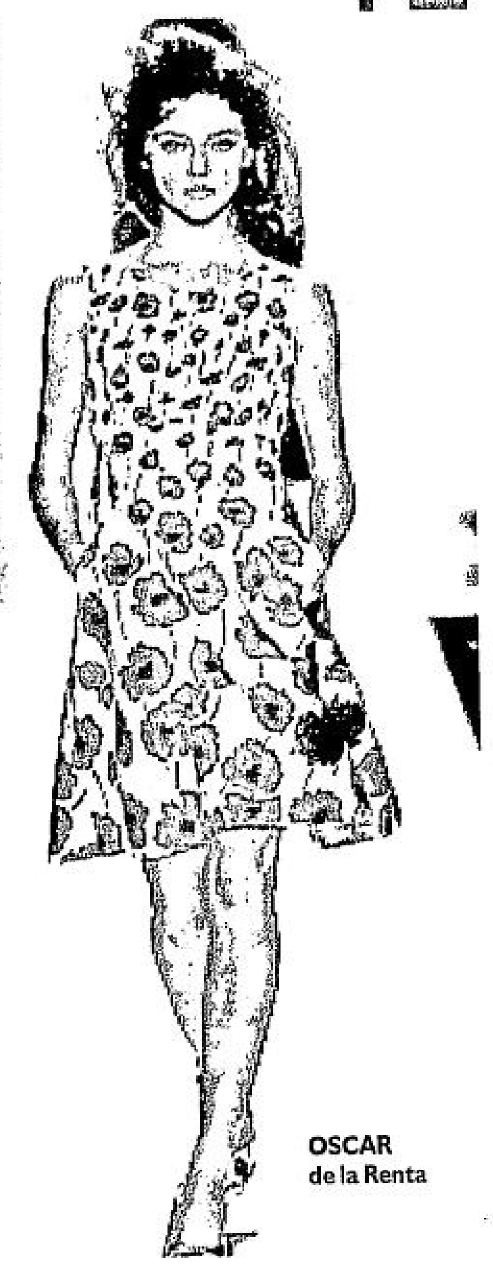
"The high fashion designers needed to face the [illegible]ty who is really coughing up for the c[illegible]es, and the median age is older," Simon Doonan, creative director of Barneys New York, told WWD.

He said, "It was only a matter of time before people woke up and realized how dumb it was to make young people so culturally central. Young people are not as interesting as people who are older and guess who's buying the clothes?"

But who needs "interesting" when one just has to be pretty and thin, right? Apparently, not really, if these retail executives and designers are to be heeded now. So to Metro Manila's retail merchandisers who stock up on XS and S or sizes one and two: Think of the sales you could have made but didn't.

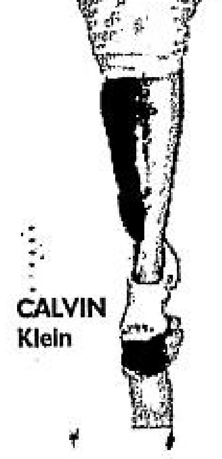
Foremost designer Michael Kors himself weighed in and told WWD: "Fashion people in general—designers, retailers, editors, everyone—have that fantasy that the customer is 25, remarkably rich, a size two and

FASHION/ E2

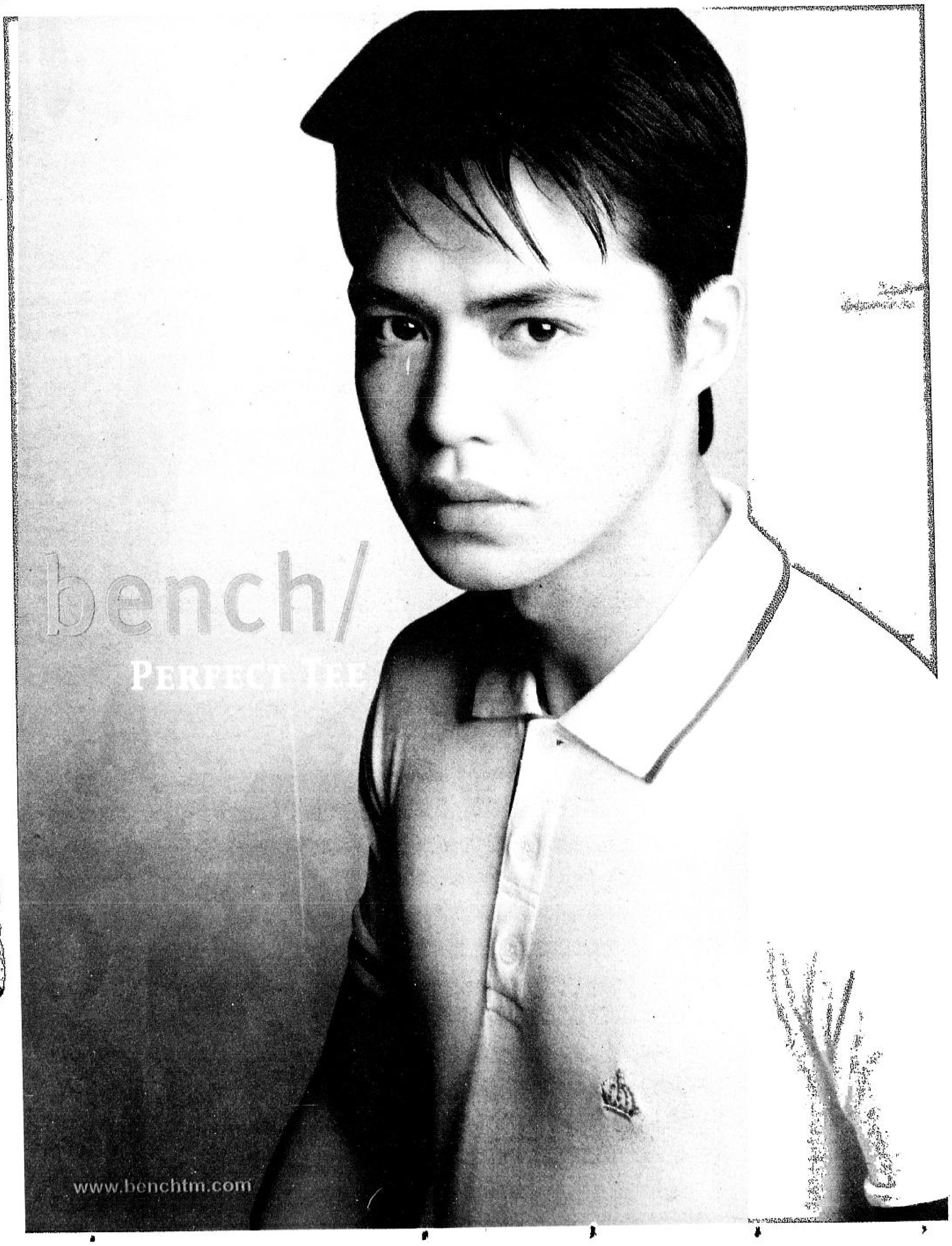


OSCAR de la Renta

> Michael Kors: 'Fashion people have that fantasy that the customer is 25, remarkably rich, a size 2 and 5 ft 10 inches, but the simple truth is, financially, you will have more customers who are over 40'



CALVIN Klein



CALVIN Klein

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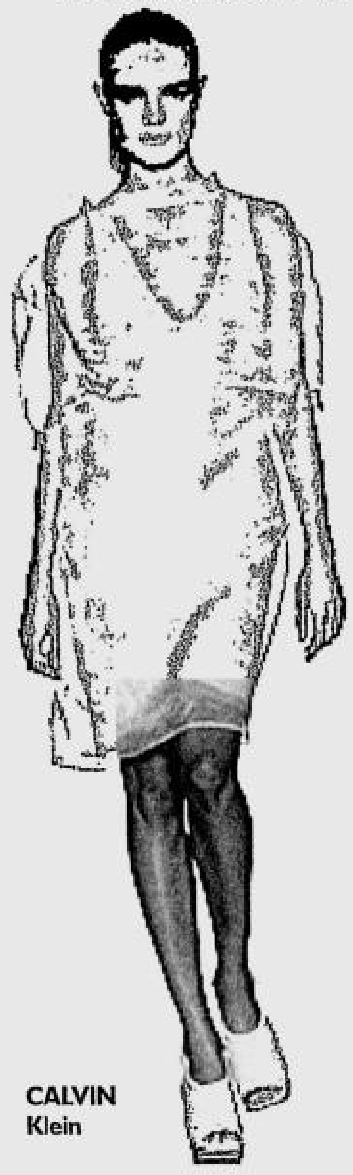

CALVIN Klein

OSCAR de la Renta

OSCAR de la Renta

OSCAR de la Renta

Fashion moving away . . .

From page E1

5 ft and 10 inches, but the simple truth is, financially, you will have more customers who are over 40."

Apparently, WWD reported, retail giants have caught on, if their advertising campaigns are a gauge: Sharon Stone, 48, has replaced 20-year-old Mary Kate and Ashley Olsen in Badgley Mischka; Madonna, 48, is model for H&M; and Jane Fonda, 69, and Diane Keaton, 60, for L'Oreal.

"Nobody wants to look older but they don't want to look like their daughters either," WWD quoted an industry executive.

The industry bible also hazarded a rationale behind this movement "away from youth worship" and this "generational shock wave." Paris Hilton could be the "culprit," the report said. She has been such a "bad girl."

Whatever, the report concluded that today, the youth market is just a fashion niche, "less of an indicator of trends to come."

When you're turning a year older these days—and who doesn't—isn't that a nice industry report?

Layering, not 'ukay ukay'

Speaking of trends, the New York Fashion Week just concluded indicated that the dress remains a favorite—trapeze, empire-cut, waisted.

Feminine, soft dress, with subtle structure. And it comes with sleeves that can be a design statement unto themselves—puffed, leg of mutton, bell, to name a few.

These recent seasons, we've been into leggings (worn underneath skirts or dresses, or individually), cigarette-thin pants, or straight wide-legged trousers.

Since it takes time for looks to filter down (or wide), leggings may catch on only early next year. And where pants are concerned, keep in mind, you have options: pipe-thin if you can hack it, or floor-sweeping wide, reminiscent of the elephant pants of the '60s. As you may have guessed, bootcut is history.

But back to New York Fashion week: The shape is subtly sculpted (think balloon or petal skirt), with volume and boxy proportions. Skirts are draped in all sorts of ways.

Reviewers and critics were all praises for Calvin Klein, Vera Wang, Anna Sui and Oscar de la Renta (who had Roger Federer on the front row to whom a model handed a bouquet at curtain call. Tennis is on the chic celeb radar, I told you so).

Vera Wang, whose industrialist father (her patron) died on the eve of her show, got the critics' nod for mixing dance wear (sweaters, undershirts, warm-up pants) with geisha gear in kimono shapes. WWD reported how Vera "beaded, bunched, layered, ruffled, ruched organza dress, chiffon pants."

Layering is everywhere. Perhaps it will be most important next year. But it is not at all like the layering done by many of today's local stylists—who pile on one piece of clothing after another until the model or wearer looks like a survivor from the "ukay ukay."

Layering in the New York Fashion Week is feminine and elegant, and seamless—meaning one layer is almost indistinguishable from another. The look is integrated and fluid. Francisco Costa, the well-reviewed designer of Calvin Klein, showed dresses layered in gauze, a stunning homage to Helmut Lang.

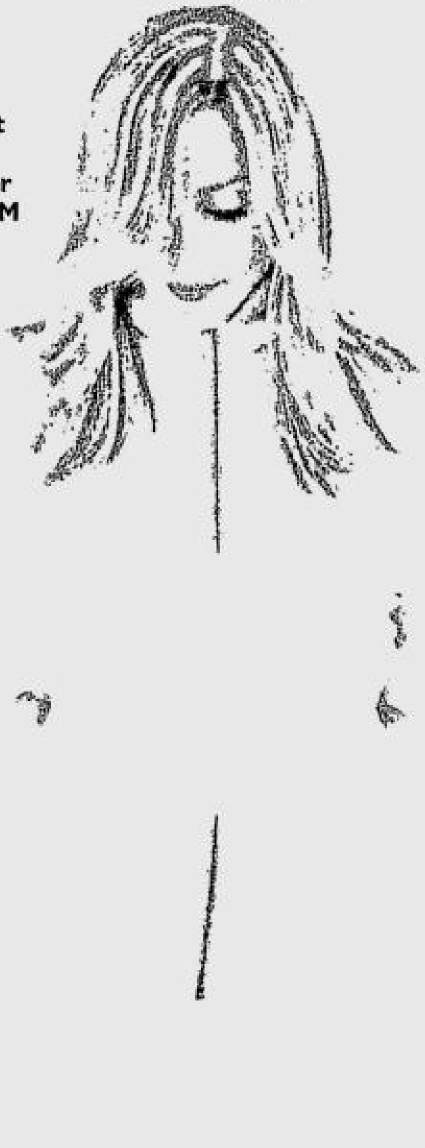
In layering, the season's design frontrunners used a lot of tulle, organza-diaphanous and fragile numbers mixed with stretch and techno fabrics.

Curiously, Zac Posen, the young designer who has been the toast of the town, was panned. WWD wrote, "Posen has been out of design school for some time. He must resolve the refinement issue if he is to move beyond the young designer's handle." Ouch!

On Monique Lhuillier, WWD wrote: "One doesn't look to Monique Lhuillier to reinvent the wheel." Ouch! But wait. WWD continued: "Yet with her considerable range of lovely evening looks, the designer does make it easy to find the perfect pretty dress."

Whew! That was close.

MONIQUE Lhuillier


MADONNA tracksuit jacket especially designed for her and sold by H&M

Guest roles

NO ONE EVER EXPECTS MADONNA TO FOLLOW the trends. Set them, yes, but never follow. Her partnership with uber-trendy Swedish fashion chain H&M was therefore no surprise.

For her summer Confessions tour which she launched in Los Angeles in May and closed this month in Japan, H&M provided complete wardrobes for Madonna and her cast and crew totalling 150. Every lithe dancer, every lighting engineer, even her business partners who follow the corporate dressing code—all were dressed in clothes from H&M's regular retail offerings for the season.

The exception, of course, was Madonna's tracksuit. According to H&M's instore magazine, it was designed especially for the superstar. The all-white tracksuit and wardrobe for the rest of Madonna's troupe were displayed in H&M stores.

After dressing up Madonna, H&M is teaming up with V&R this fall. The Dutch duo Viktor & Rolf signed up for the chain's designer cooperative project, following in the footsteps of designers Karl Lagerfeld and Stella McCartney.

Viktor Hoersting and Rolf Snoeren launched their fashion career by winning the prestigious Hyeres Fashion Festival in 1993. Today their Paris shows are always at the top of the buzz meter. Their fans include stars like Gwen Stefani and Kate Moss. Tilda Swinton is their absolute muse and this spring they made their perfume debut with the daring Flowerbomb.

"We love communicating with a big audience," say Viktor & Rolf. "Our own label is only accessible to a few, so we are happy to have the opportunity to make a democratic collection that anyone can afford."

Source: H&M Magazine

MADONNA with her dancers in H&M clothes ranging in price from US$24.90 to US$34.90. H&M MAGAZINE

Trinkets trilogy

CHARMING THEIR WAY INTO THE HEARTS OF *fashionistas* are Braun Büffel's Trilogy collection of enticing accessories. Freunde, Charme and Leder are the perfect complements for fun fashion in their striking medley of colors in rose or silver, with natural stones and leather.

Freunde (*Fr-eun-de*, German for friend) forms the first part of Braun Büffel's Trilogy collection. Whimsically themed for friendship, this collection of leather purses and key rings is perfect for the bubbly extrovert in an array of animal, floral and fruity shapes Freunde Scarlet, Tangerine and Coral Pink.

The Freunde range is available in Moo Purse, Mouse Purse, Rooster Purse, Puppy Purse, Orange Purse, Bloom Key Ring and Orange Key Ring.

Inspired by the excitement and ebullience of the holiday season is the Charme collection of key rings and mobile phone charms.

Depicting the iconic bull symbol balanced with a pretty natural stone bead or *diamante* and logo pendant, Charme is a gift that leaves a lasting impression and adds a dazzle of fun glamour to any outfit.

The Charme range is available in rose and silver.

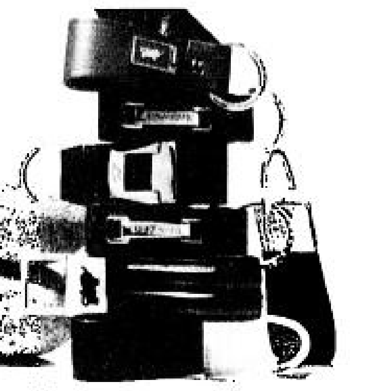
Leder features a range of leather key rings with a super simple locking mechanism that can be alternated to match your attire of the day.

Superb detailing on each piece, Leder makes an outstanding impression in scarlet red and smooth ebony, all with detailed stitching.

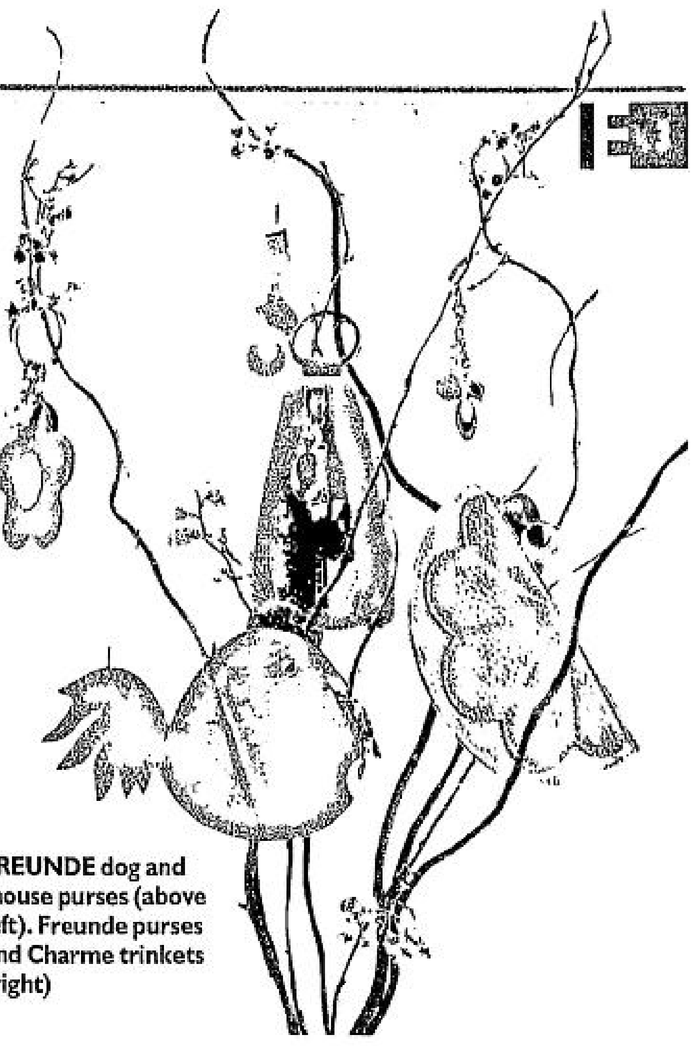
Leder, in soft cowhide, was designed for the corporate professional who appreciates the finer things in life. The individualist, who is highly adaptable during the pursuit of a corporate career and enjoys an equally flamboyant social lifestyle.

The Leder range is available in red, black, bronze, rose, navy, gray.

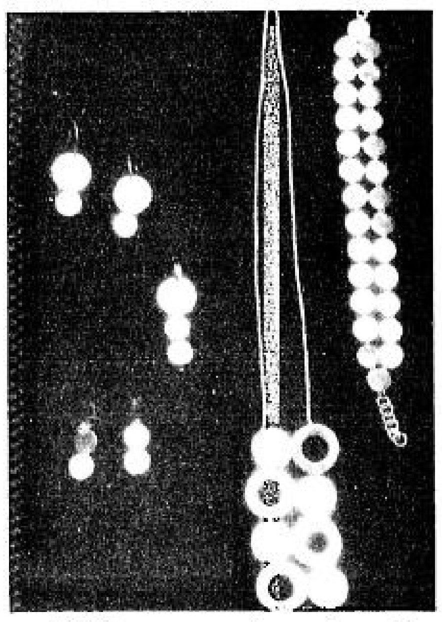
Braun Büffel Manila boutiques are at 4/L, The Podium, Ortigas Center; 2/L, Eastood Citywalk 2, Libis; and Leather Gallery, Robinson's Place Ermita. Braun Büffel is also available at Rustan's and SM Department Stores.



LEDER key rings



FREUNDE dog and mouse purses (above left). Freunde purses and Charme trinkets (right)



It's rainin' silver

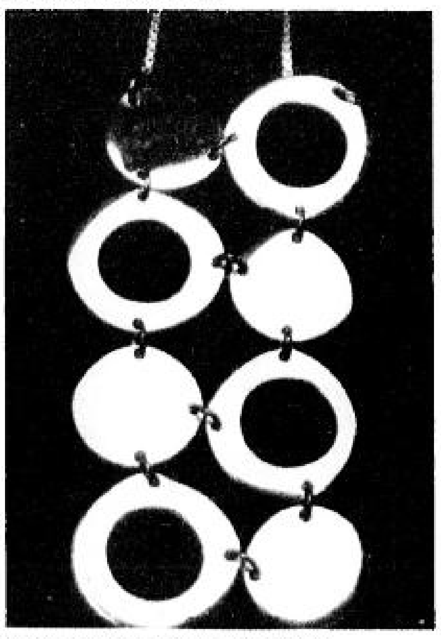
HERE COMES THE RAIN AGAIN ... sings Annie Lennox. With the rain come layers of clothing that protect us from getting drenched by the downpour that comes every year.

Accompanying the layers of clothing are problems of accessorizing these dark rain-inspired outfits. Often times, what reigns supreme is to keep things simple since there is a lot more to handle what with a jacket, handbag, umbrella and other items the average Filipina brings along as she goes about her day.

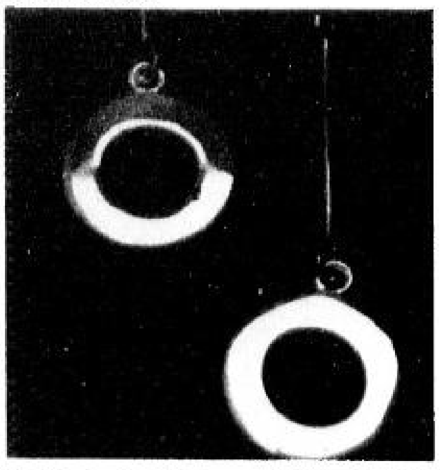
Michelis introduces the Disc collection, a minimalist collection of sterling silver discs, circles and chain in varying combinations to suit every Filipina's style. From the simple tri-disc pendant to the more elaborate Y-necklace, the Disc collection will give any outfit a little ray of sunshine that we miss during the rainy seasons.

Michelis' clients are assured of the finest quality sterling silver masterpieces. Each Michelis sterling silver creation is crafted by hand according to European standards and is guaranteed to possess the level of purity required by the international market.

The Disc collection is available at all Michelis Branches: Greenbelt 1; The Jewellery, Greenhills Shopping Center; Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Manila; Rustan's Alabang Town Center; Rustan's Ermita and Rustan's Tower, Shangri-la Plaza. Call 7516352 or 8942413.



MICHELIS introduces the Disc collection, a minimalist collection of sterling silver discs, circles and chains in varying combinations to suit every Filipina's style.



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To break the ice,
we thought we'd drop a few names.

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WILOCI MARKS DIAMOND JUBILEE

Supreme Court Chief Justice Artemio V. Panganiban lauded the University of the Philippines Women's Lawyers Center (Wiloci) for its outstanding achievement and vital role as human-rights advocate during the induction of Wiloci officers and directors. Heading the inductees was Teresita M. Villaruz as president. The Wiloci will celebrate its diamond Jubilee at 6 p.m., Oct. 6, at the Manila Polo Club. Call 8492271, 8134597; fax 8103110, 8153172; e-mail gbalmaceda@rmbsa.com.

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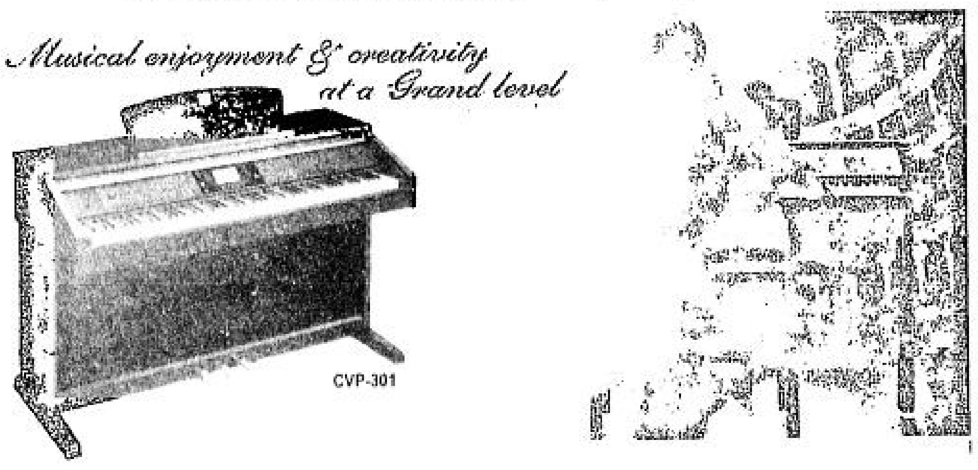

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Smashdown sale in Cubao

ARANETA CENTER IS HOLDING THE three-day Smashdown Sale Sept. 29-Oct. 1, offering discounts of up to 50 percent on selected items. Shop or dine at any Araneta Center establishment, Shopwise and SM Department Store.

GOINGS ON

Enjoy the best bargains on luxury items at Rustan's Department Store, Lacoste apparel and shoes, accessories at Charriol, among others. Selected items are also on sale at Nike Park, Levi's, Marks & Spencer, Bayo, Folded and Hung, Olympic Village, Royal Sporting House, Freeway, Adidas, The Body Shop, Fully Booked. Araneta Center has over 300 retail and food outlets. Visit www.araneta-center.net.

ANNUAL BAZAAR. The Assumption Alumnae Association will hold the annual Assumption Bazaar Oct. 1 and Nov. 19 at the Grand Ballroom of Hotel Intercontinental in Makati. Spearheaded by Class '81 Silver Jubilarians and the Basic Education Family Council, it will have 109 different concessionaires from all over the country. It aims to raise funds for the Assumption Mission schools to provide basic education and livelihood programs to underprivileged communities in San Simon, Pampanga; Malibay, Pasay City; Iloilo; Antique; Cagayan de Oro; Bukidnon and Kauswagan. Call 8943561 or 8943580.

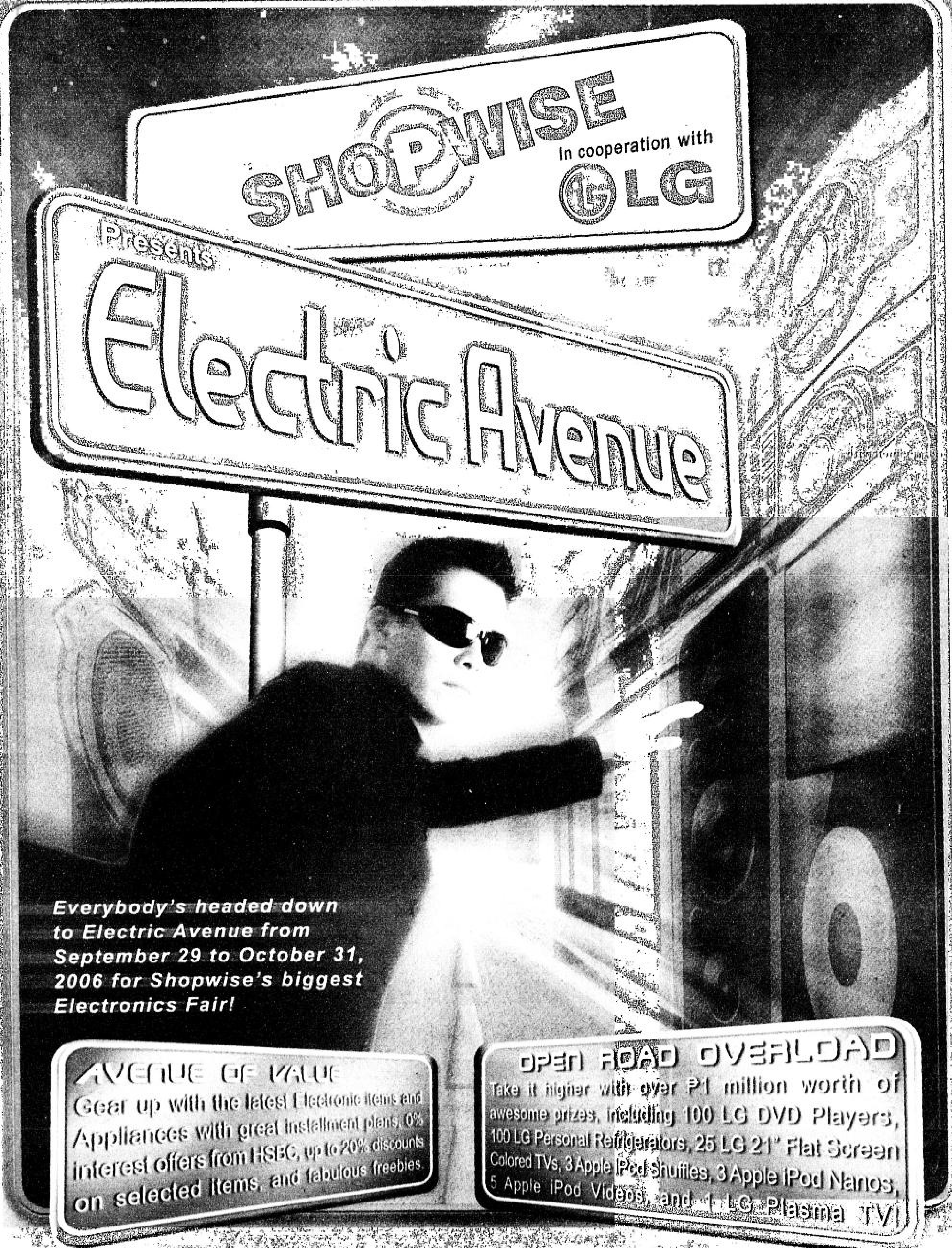
"SALU-SALO." Batch '66 of Sigma Delta Phi Sorority of the University of the Philippines is inviting all Sigma Deltans to a *salu-salo*, "Kiss at 40," Sept. 30, 11 a.m., at the Town and Country Estate Clubhouse, Antipolo City. Call 8140436 and 0918-9009340.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS. Natural health products and wellness services will be highlighted at the Beauty and Fitness World 2006, the third professional exhibit for cosmetics, personal care, wellness and fitness industry on Oct. 10-12 at the World Trade Center on Roxas Boulevard. Various lectures and demonstrations on health beauty and alternative medicine will be conducted during the three-day event. Natural health companies are invited to exhibit. Call 8558342/45.

WRITING WORKSHOP. A creative writing workshop for adults (21 years old and above) will be held on all weekends of October and November, 9:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m. It will be conducted by writer-book author Visitacion "Chit" de la Torre. Call 8154938/6925 or visit Windsor Tower, 163 Legaspi St., Legaspi Village, Makati.

RETREAT. Jeshua Ministries, a Catholic-Christian lay organization offers the following retreats: Life to the Full, Oct 7; Born to Love, Oct. 15; Cross Roads, Oct. 21; Healing Heart, Oct. 28; from 8 a.m.-6 p.m., at the Lay Formation Center, San Carlos Seminary, Makati. Call 9108031 or 6374701.

DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP. ProActive Center will hold a three-day "Develop Your Professional Assertiveness and Confidence" workshop Oct. 4-6, 1-5 p.m., at Unit 1203, Antel Global Corporate Center, Ortigas Complex, Pasig City. Call 6673369/70.



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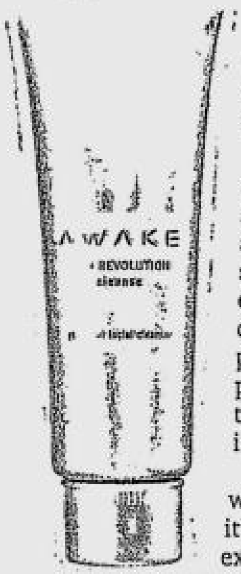
By Cheche V. Moral

IF YOU'VE EVER WONDERED about the secret to the Japanese's enviably fine, translucent skin, a Japanese woman reveals there's a lot more involved than just having good genes.


AWAKE
SIGN REVOLUTION
cleanse

Basic skin care for our neighbors in the north, Yuko Oka says, involves several steps. The soap-and-water regimen just wouldn't do.

The first part involves ridding the face of all surface dirt, makeup and sebum (oil). Some serious cleansing to eliminate deep-seated dirt that can clog the pores and dull the complexion follows. Then there's exfoliating, toning and moisturizing.

"I know it seems a lot of work, but this is the way it's been for generations," explains Oka, a woman in her 20s who can very well be the poster girl of this age-old regimen with her bright, clear complexion.

Oka is also a planner for Awake, a Japanese prestige skin care and makeup brand. Her job, she says, involves studying and setting trends for skin care.

Skin hydration

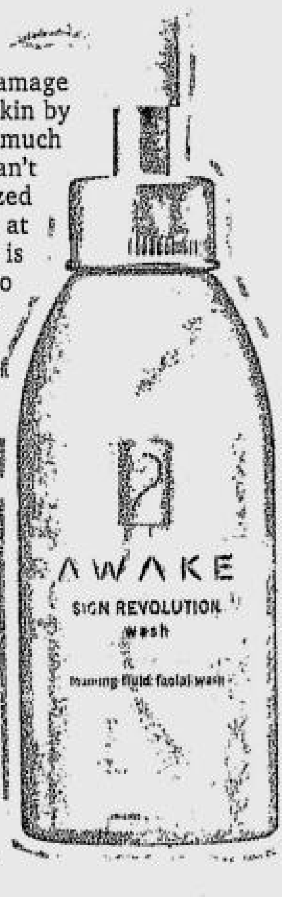
On her recent visit to the Philippines, Oka introduced Awake's new skin care series that adapts the Japanese's ancient routine to modern times.

AWAKE
SIGN REVOLUTION
eye cream

Available in October at Rustan's, the Sign Revolution line is specifically intended for women aged 30 and above, women whose skin is beginning to show the ravages of lifestyle stresses and severe environment.

Part of Awake's high-end Platinum series, Sign Revolution uses plant-derived ingredients that are all intended to deliver skin hydration.

Awake, a brand owned by the Kosé cosmetics corporation, likens skin aging to the growth rings of a tree trunk. It says a young tree has thick rings that thin as it ages. A period of drought can be especially harsh on a tree so that, on a dry year, its ring can be particularly thin.


AWAKE
SIGN REVOLUTION
wash
foaming fluid facial wash

It is Awake's belief that the extent of the damage wrought to the skin by external factors, much like on a tree, can't be fully analyzed just by looking at the surface. This is why it aims to fight skin aging by tackling it from within.

Sign Revolution is a six-step skin care routine that may be daunting for Filipino women used to the basic cleanse-tone-moisturize regimen. But the Japanese seem to believe in the adage "no pain, no gain"—and justifiably so.

Step 1 is the Sign Revolution Cleanse, a gel that transforms to oil upon contact with dry skin. Used in the nighttime, it dissolves makeup and oxidized sebum. Step 2 is the

ANCIENT/F4

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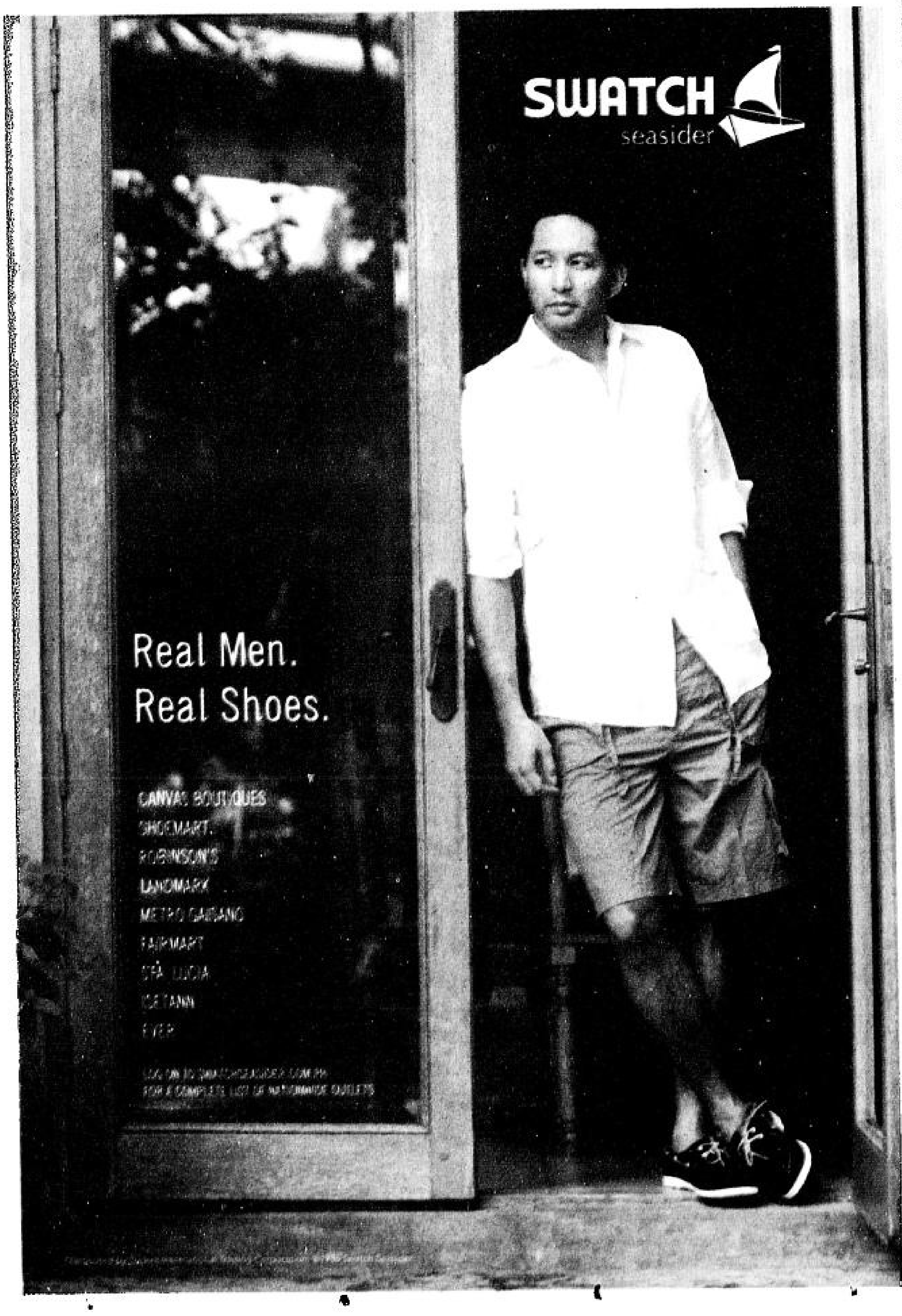
MARCO Polo's minimalist design

OUR GROUP'S English-speaking tour guide Patrick Yin Lu and Marco Polo Hotel's Emelyn Mauhay

DIFFERENT kinds of duck dishes only at the popular Quanjude Hepingmen Roast Duck Restaurant

PAL's Leticia Redondo at PAL'S check-in counter before take off

MARCO Polo's chill-out lobby bar



Doing a Marco Polo

First of two parts

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

IN A YEAR AND THREE MONTHS FROM now, it will be China's year of years, dahlings, when it opens its historical, colorful doors to welcome tens of thousands of visitors and millions of TV viewers from all over the world into its fabulous grand Summer Olympics.

But before people from 200 countries flock to China, our true pal, Philippine Airlines' Mabuhay Miles, together with the so-comfy Marco Polo Hotels (www.marcopolohotels.com) and the very professional Panda Travel Services (tel. 2422585), brought us to a fantastic voyage of Beijing's rich history, gastronomic delights and shopping wonders, *palanggas*.

No sooner had we landed, we were met by our witty and handsome tour guide, **Patrick Yin Lu**, whose English and humor were very American. (We found out later that he had stayed in the US for 10 months so as to achieve relative fluency in English.)

Before we could bat an eyelash, our group was whisked off to the highly recommended Marco Polo Xidan, a luxury hotel located in the Xidan commercial district, which is quite near the super shopping area of Beijing.

The hotel had 296 elegant rooms and eye-catching suites. There we dropped our elegant luggage from American Tourister. We also put into our room's safe deposit box our passport, cash and travel insurance papers, care of our tour's official travel insurer, PhilamLife's TravelPlans, exclusive for Mabuhay Miles members.

All the rooms and suites offer attractive garden and city views, including 42 Continental Club rooms and suites on the top floor of the hotel, providing unparalleled accommodations and hospitable services.

Panda Travel Services, a top travel agency represented by its adorable assistant general manager, **Analiza "Ana" C. Tan**, who speaks Tagalog, provided our group with a well-planned Beijing itinerary.

The tour is really what Panda provides in its China Panorama tour packages. One thing *moi* must say sincerely is that Panda Travel Services takes pride in its special tour packages in China, *palanggas*.

"Beijing's distinct, historic landmarks now stand amid modern shopping, dining and entertainment centers," said the *tres charmante* **Ruth Chuaunsu**, the brilliant district sales manager of PAL-Beijing.

"No tourist should miss the top three things to do in Beijing—to eat Peking duck, go to the Forbidden City and climb the Great Wall of China," she added.

And would you believe Panda Travel Services had all this covered, plus oh, so much more.

Tiananmen Square

Our super fun tour started at 9 a.m. after a great buffet-style breakfast at the hotel. We headed straight to the world-famous Tiananmen Square, passing through the Gate Tower of Tiananmen at the center of Beijing. Tiananmen occupies 445 hectares.

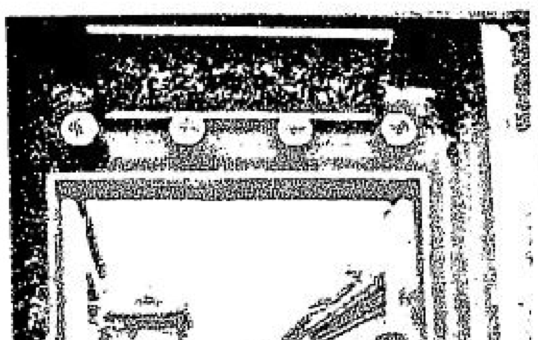
We posed for photos at the Museum of Chinese History, the Monument to the People's Heroes, the Memorial Hall of Chairman Mao Zedong and the Great Hall of the People.

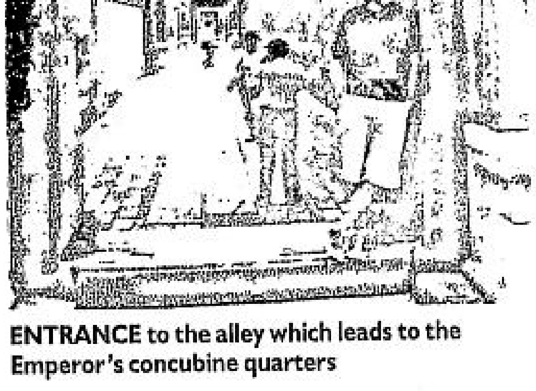
Next was a fabulous lunch at the 24-hour Cantonese Restaurant; then it was time to shop at the Russian Bargain Market.

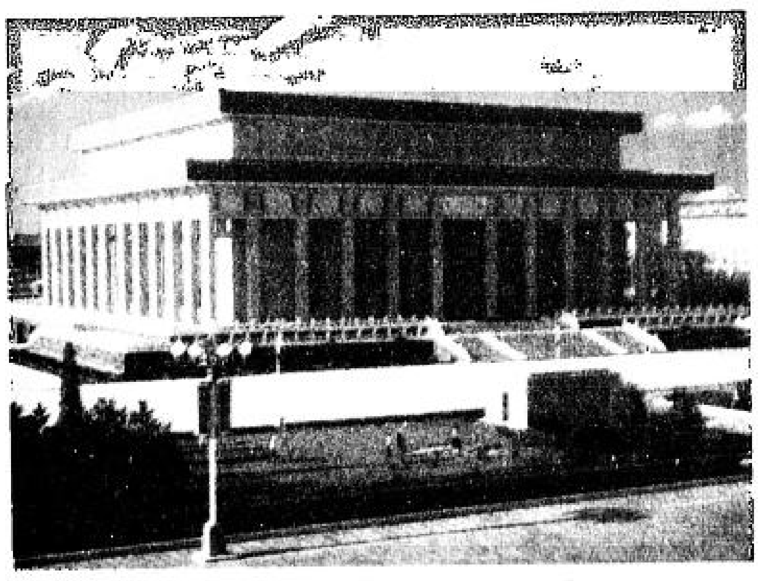
That night, we couldn't wait to rush to a fabulous Peking duck dinner at the world-renowned Beijing Quanjude Hepingmen Roast Duck Restaurant. This grand restaurant is favored by the locals (that's how good it is, dahlings), and by world leaders from former US President **George Bush** to **Henry Kissinger** and former Japanese Prime Minister **Toshiki Kaifu**, just to name-drop a few, *natch*.

We had the most excellent Peking duck I had ever tasted, plus a huge variety of other duck and food items in the wow menu. The address is 14 Quianmen West St., Beijing. Definitely a must-go to restaurant, *palangga*.

Next day was the tour we all looked forward to—a visit to the Forbidden City, north of the


ENTRANCE to the alley which leads to the Emperor's concubine quarters




THE COLOSSAL Mao Memorial Hall at Tiananmen Square

GREAT Hall of the People at Ti

THE GANG inside the exotic Forbidden City. Bulletin's Alex Timbol; *moi*; PAL assistant VP for product, Babsie Aragon; Emelyn Mauhay; Pepper Teehankee; and PAL manager for program development Ria Domingo

in China

Tiananmen Square.

For 500 years, it was the Imperial Palace of the Ming and Quing dynasties. There, the imperial household dwelled in 800 buildings, housing 9,999 rooms. Many members of the imperial households lived and died within the city.

The mind-boggling Imperial Palace is divided into the Outer Palace, which had three main halls, one of them the Baoke Hall (Preserving Harmony) where the emperor conducted grand ceremonies; and the Inner Palace, which had three main structures, where the emperor lived and handled state affairs. It was only in 1949 that the gates of the Imperial Palace were opened to the public.

In one of its palaces, the fabulous Salvatore Ferragamo grand spring/summer fashion collection was shown last November to over a thousand guests, that included *moi*, thanks to Rustan's.

Then it was time to shop again at several of Beijing's many shops with their super-inexpensive buys.

Our biggest thrill on the third day was our trip to the Great Wall of China. On our way there, we stopped at a really interesting jade factory where we were educated on the kinds of jade there were in the market.

My best buys were several pillow cases made out of high-quality cool jade. They had a simple design, cut in small thin blocks, which really act as an acupuncture to your neck and head as you lie on them. Well, how could I turn my back on that, huh?

PEKING duck master expertly slices a duck for its precise thickness at Beijing's world-renowned Quanjude Hepingmen Roast Duck Restaurant.

JADE Pillows. On the left side is the smooth, flat jade; on the right side is the jade with acupuncture effect

ananmen Square

Spot corrector for clear, glowing skin

AMWAY'S ARTISTRY PURE White Spot Corrector lets you achieve a brighter, lighter complexion through a multi-phase strategy which attacks the problems caused by hyper-pigmentation in different approaches.

All products in the Pure White line are designed to work synergistically to protect, prevent and treat the skin. The Pure White Spot Corrector is a lightweight lotion that helps banish freckles, dark spots and other skin discolorations.

It uses a patented neutral PH exfoliation technology based on a derivative of vitamin C that gently increases cell turnover and quickly reveals lightened skin. A fast-absorbing emulsion technology allows the active ingredients to penetrate skin quickly, so you can see and enjoy the results immediately.

To protect your skin from the harsh rays of the sun, Pure White Spot Corrector also has organic (octinaoxate) and physical (TiO2) sunscreens that offers UVB and UVA protection with SPF 15 and PA++.

Pure White Spot Corrector contains a vitamin C derivative for skin lightening, vitamin E and patented bitter-orange peel extract for cell protection. Irritation is reduced thanks to its aloe barbadenesis leaf extract and dipotassium glycyrrhizinate content.

It also gently lightens with an effective blend of botanicals, and protects cells with advanced anti-oxidants to prevent future damage.

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PURE White Spot Corrector is a lightweight lotion which helps banish freckles, dark spots and other skin discolorations.

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DOROTHY PERKINS

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Ancient routine

From page F1

Wash, a deep-cleansing, rich foaming liquid, for both day and night.

Step 3 is the Lotion Concentrate that works as a light moisturizing toner to prime the skin for further moisturizing. It is followed by the Fluid, the Step 4, that both softens and firms up the skin. Both products are used for day and night.

'Common' routine

The thick, high-moisture Cream is the fifth step. Used in the evening, it functions as a protective film to seal in the skin's moisture. The Cream, says Oka, stops oxidation and balances skin's oil and moisture. The Eye Cream is the final step, moisturizing and firming up the skin around the eye area.

The moisturization steps may seem a bit much, but Oka insists this routine is "very common" in Japan. She hopes that, like the skin-whitening craze, this exacting if laborious skin care process will be adopted by most women.

"Whitening used to be a trend," she notes, "but now it's so basic. It's no longer a big deal. It's part of every Japanese woman's routine... You have to know that we want a brighter complexion, not 'whiter' skin as some believe."

Oka says modern women are now more sophisticated when it comes to makeup and skin care so that a lot of money is invested by cosmetics companies into research and product development.

"Skin care has become more diverse and technical, and the market's demands are more complex. Today a mascara isn't just a mascara. You have to be able to give something more."

RHAPSODY. Red and violet shades with long-lasting pigments

HARMONY. Natural gold and auburn browns with warm mocha tones

Intense hair care and color

LUST. Copper shades with rustic variations

THE NEW, IMPROVED VERSION OF IGORA Royal is the exclusive color for salons from Schwarzkopf Professional. It was launched recently in the country through its exclusive distributor, Top Style Marketing Inc.

Igora Royal's Color Crystal Complex creates colors of intense, smooth and long-lasting brilliance. Essences from the "miracle tree" Moringa Oleifera rebuild and strengthen the inner hair structure, fortifying and protecting the hair during the coloring process itself. The Colorist's Color & Care Developer, meanwhile, has an additional conditioning effect that adds extra shine.

The product is the result of intensive research, workshops and discussion panels with hairdressers and colorists from over 30 countries around the world. It used a color spectrum of 145 tones, including cooler shades, subtle blond pastels, and special colors for Asian hair types, which were then tested on more than 2,000 hair models.

The results are four amazing color themes: Glamour (luxurious pearl tones, glistening frosted platinum and glowing blonds, plus pastels and highlights for fair hair); Harmony (natural gold and auburn browns with warm mocha tones); Lust (copper shades with rustic variations that create tone intensity) and Rhapsody (radiant red and rich violet shades with long-lasting pigment technology to ensure outstanding shine).

IGORA
ROYAL

Schwarzkopf Professional is part of the business unit cosmetics/toiletries of the Henkel Group, Düsseldorf, and is one of the leading suppliers of the hairdressing business worldwide. Schwarzkopf Professional is present in over 80 countries.

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GLAMOUR. Pearl tones

THE NEW Igora Royal permanent color creme Red

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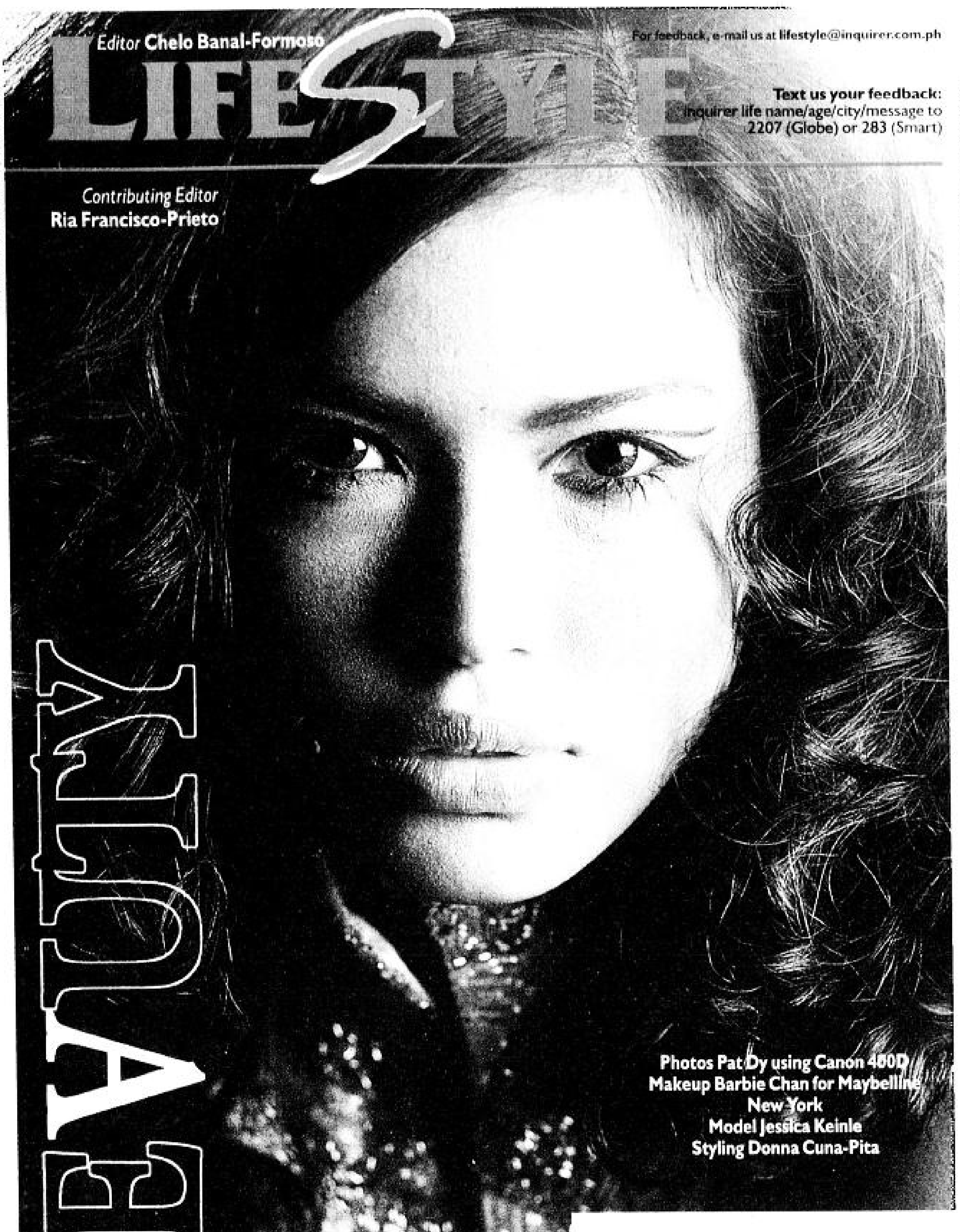


BEAUTY

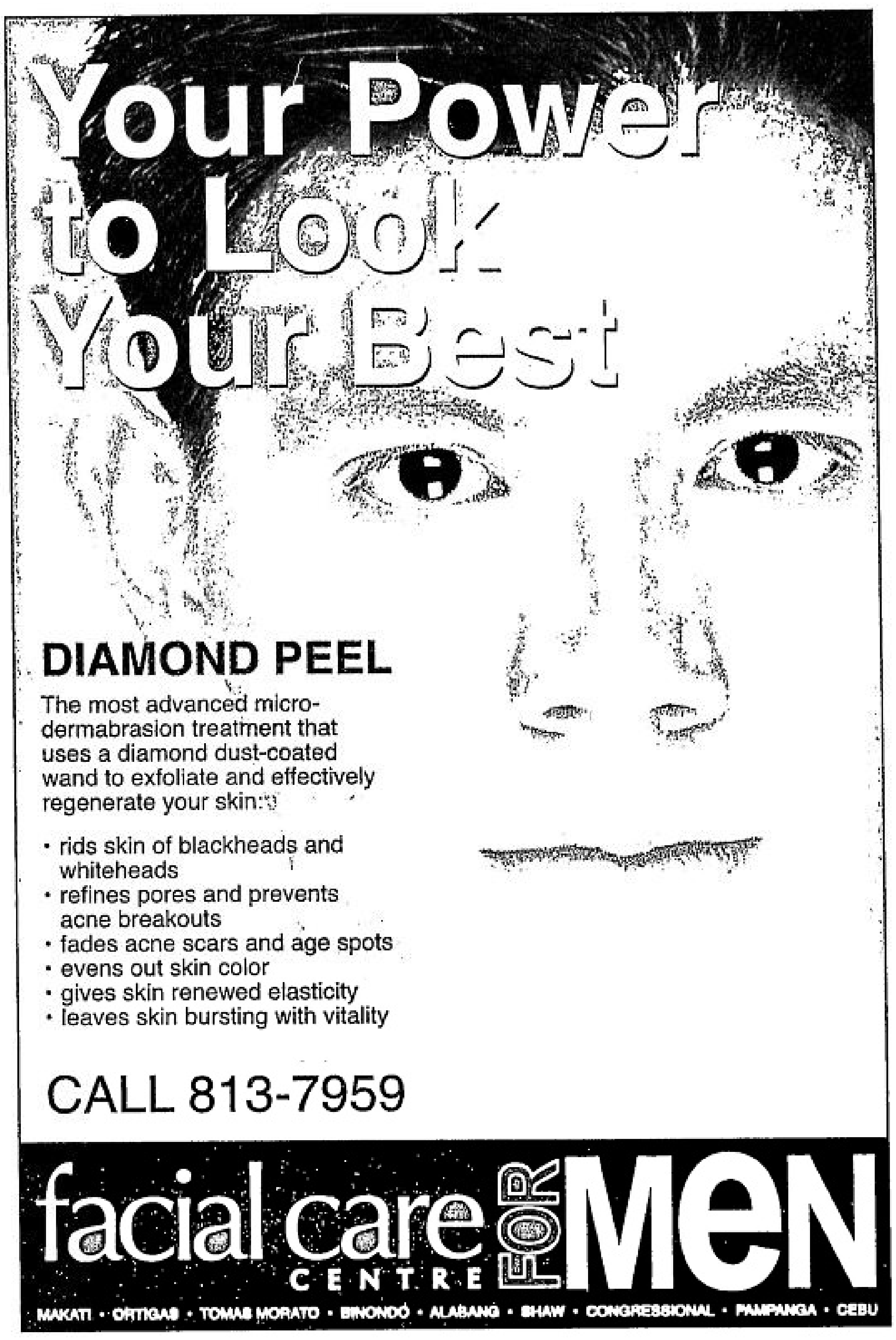
Photos Pat Dy using Canon 400D
Makeup Barbie Chan for Maybelline New York
Model Jessica Keinle
Styling Donna Cuna-Pita

SILKY UNDERWEAR

BEAUTY MUST-HAVE:
SOAP FOR SMOOTH SKIN

BEAUTY NEWS:
BREAST CANCER
AWARENESS MONTH

BEAUTY HAVEN:
STONE MASSAGE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Tools of the trade

When it comes to makeup, brushes aren't called an investment for nothing

Ria Francisco-Prieto

LINE eyes with a powder eyeliner brush for precision.

ONE THING ALL makeup artists have in common is this: They have very good makeup brushes.

Given a choice between losing their makeup box or their makeup brushes, most would tell you losing their brushes would be a lot more painful. For one, a good brush can be very costly, and if you know how to use your brushes well, makeup is just secondary.

When it comes to makeup, brushes aren't called an investment for nothing.

Most makeup brushes are designed for the eyes. When putting on makeup, the lips and cheeks are the easiest to learn. In fact, all you have to do when you feel like diversifying is changing to another color. How simple. But when it comes to the eye, there are so many things that can be done.

When doing eye makeup, the first thing to do is to learn the basics. Once these are mastered, that's the only time you can go to another level.

I wish someone told me this when I was younger. I remember the first time I put on makeup. It was for a "Salubong," and since I didn't know better, I put on purple and fuchsia together. I didn't even know the concept of blending. Now, when I see the picture, I don't know whether to rip it or have it printed out and shown to everyone just for laughs.

To keep people from having that "what was I thinking" moment in terms of eye makeup, here are some tips.

Eyelash curler. If you have straight-as-a-llama's lashes, or you simply just want to open up your eyes, this tool is made just for you. The good thing about eyelash curlers is, you can skip the mascara if you have thick enough lashes, or you can play it simple.

When using an eyelash curler, it is good to squeeze in an upward motion so that your lashes won't be standing straight like a ruler, but curled. First, try to get as close as you can to your eyes, then squeeze. Then go a little bit further and squeeze again. Repeat process until tip.

START by using an all-over eye shadow brush for the yellow eye shadow, then layer different colors using a thinner eye shadow brush.

Eyelash/brow brush. This looks like a little comb, and on the opposite side has a little brush that looks more like a toothbrush. The little comb or sometimes spiral brush is good to use after applying mascara to take out the clump, and is also good for blending your eyebrow pencil.

All-over shadow brush. This is the first brush used on the eyes since it is thicker and has wider coverage. Best used for base colors.

Contour brush. It is smaller and has shorter bristles than the all-over eye shadow brush. It comes in different styles, depending on your need. Some are angled for easier application on the brow line, or are oval in tip.

. **Powder eyeliner brush.** Flat and small with stiff bristles, this tool is used to fill in spaces. It's not intended to be used as a brush. Just pat it on to your skin, as this brush is designed for the precise application of powder.

Liquid eyeliner brush. This is a tiny, thin brush with a pointed tip. Though most liquid liners come with their own brush, your own personal one should be better since the long handle assures greater control.

Cleaning your brushes

It is important to clean your makeup brushes. If they're not cleaned, dirt and bacteria will build up, which may eventually cause your skin to break out.

Cleaning them is actually very easy. First, run lukewarm water on your makeup brush, then apply a small amount of shampoo and work into a lather. Rinse and allow to air-dry.

Another technique which I learned from a makeup artist is to add a little dishwashing soap in a bowl of tap water and swish the bristles in the water until the makeup color runs out. Then add a little hair conditioner in another bowl of water to soften the bristles. Rinse, then air-dry.

Brushes are costly, so it would be good to look around first before purchasing. Also, know what you will need. Not everyone needs all the brushes. Sometimes all you really need are these six tools.

Check out makeup brushes at The Body Shop, MAC, Laura Mercier, Bobbi Brown or Shiseido if you do not know where to start looking.

BEAUTY MUST HAVE

Soap star

SO, JUST HOW DO KYLIE MINOGUE AND Olivier Martinez manage to keep the sparkle going in their relationship? Lush fresh handmade cosmetics is their secret. The pair of lovebirds were spotted shopping in the sexy beauty boutique that neighbors their nest in Paris.

SEANIK

Kylie's fave buy was the Best Bot in Pop with Buffy (P375). It keeps bums and thighs soft and smooth, alleviating the need for any airbrushing during photo shoots. Made with shea butter, ground aduki beans and almonds, plus lavender and lemon essential oils, the product is inspired by Brazilian bathing beauties using wet sand to keep their cellulite in check.

Kylie reportedly also treated herself to some Silky Underwear (P495), a light, sexy dusting powder gently scented with romantic rose and some gold shimmer.

Olivier, meanwhile, picked up Lush's Seanik solid shampoo bar (P395) made with fresh seaweed and seawater, which gently cleanses the hair. There's the aphrodisiac scent of jasmine and inspiring sweet orange oil, too.

Lush is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists Inc. Lush boutiques are located at Glorietta 4, Power Plant Mall, Shangri-La Mall, Greenbelt 3 and SM Mall of Asia. Visit www.lush.com.ph.

BUFFY

On-the-go skincare

CÉLETEQUE FACIAL WASH and Facial Moisturizer are now available in convenient 10-ml travel pack sachets.

The products are approved by dermatologists. Hypoallergenic and non-comedogenic, the skincare products gently clean and moisturize skin.

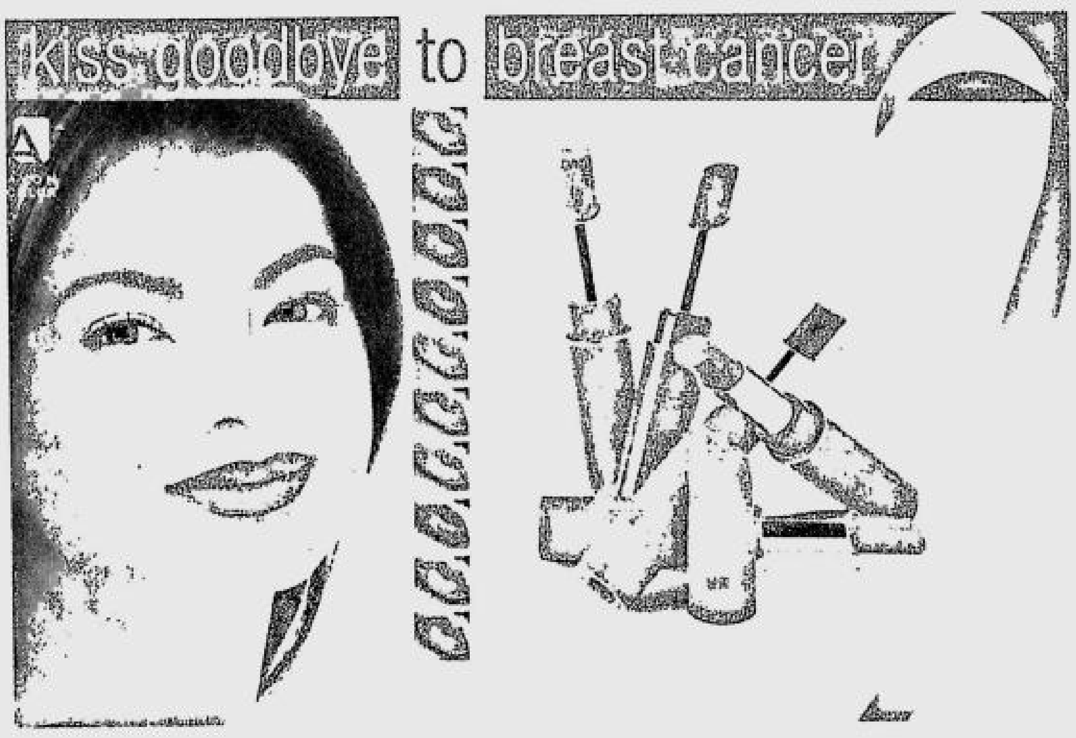
Céleteque Facial Wash with Natural Moisturizing Factor cleanses without drying the skin. It is pH-balanced so it is mild and gentle on skin.

Céleteque Facial Moisturizer is water-based and oil-free so it does not leave a sticky feeling. It has dimethicone, pro-vitamin B5, glycerin and aloe vera that help maintain the skin's water balance.

On-the-go beauty Bea Alonzo maintains her youthful, glowing skin wherever she goes. Céleteque Facial Wash and Céleteque Facial Moisturizer travel pack sachets are regular features of her beauty travel kit.

BEA Alonzo

BEAUTY NEWS



Fighting breast cancer with poise and beauty

AVON IS ONCE AGAIN STEPPING UP ITS FIGHT against the big C. Celebrating its 120 years, the company for women renews its commitment to Kiss Goodbye to Breast Cancer (KGBC). Avon opens up the opportunity for its Avon representatives and customers to participate in this cause by committing part of its sales from select products to the Philippine General Hospital Breast Care Center, the Northern Mindanao Medical Center in Cagayan de Oro City and the Corazon Locsin Montelibano Regional Hospital in Bacolod City.

For every purchase of any of the 10 shades of Avon Color Celebrate Lipstick or Sweet Honesty Purse Concentré, in Avon's Oct. 16-31 brochure, P5 goes to the beneficiary hospitals. Those who buy the Reanna Non-Wire Ribbon Brassiere and Crystal Underwire Brassiere from Avon Fashions Missy; Crystal 3-in-1 Panty Pack and Therese Underwire Brassiere from Avon Fashions Shapemakers Plus; and Judy Non-wire Brassiere from Avon Fashions Classic also contribute to the KGBC.

Since 2002, funds raised from the sale of Avon Color Lipsticks have helped subsidize the treatment of indigent patients. From the time Avon built the PGH Breast Care Center, support and contributions from corporate sponsors, customers and Avon representatives have made a difference to the lives of 120,000 women breast cancer patients in PGH.

Apart from purchasing KGBC products, breast cancer supporters can also join the Avon Walk Around the World Against Breast Cancer in Manila, Bacolod and Cagayan de Oro Oct. 22, sponsor a Walk volunteer, or purchase the KGBC Scarf from their Avon Ladies for P50.

Believing in the nobility of the cause, nine women-advocates join Avon in its crusade to reach out to breast cancer patients. Lea Salonga, Angel Locsin, Iza Calzado, Bea Alonzo, Jolina Magdangal, Angelica Panganiban, Angel Aquino, Amanda Griffin and Tweetie de Leon grace the covers of Avon's October issue brochure donning the KGBC scarf to show their support to the crusade.

Details of the KGBC and how you can do your share are found in the Avon Oct. 16-31 brochure. To support KGBC, ask your Avon Lady, visit your nearest Avon branch, or call the Avon Help Desk at 8642900/02 or the PGH Breast Care Center at 5263452.

Benefits of green tea: A dieter's journal

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

WHEN MOST PEOPLE WERE raving about the weight-loss features of green-tea supplements, I was crestfallen because the ones I had tried did not work for me. At best they only helped me maintain my weight.

My metabolism is unusually slow due to a hypothyroid condition and so I gain weight at the drop of a hat. It also makes me resistant to most diets and exercise so I am a difficult case.

When Healthy Options sent me two bottles of Universal Nutrition Thermo Green Tea, I cut out all supplements because the claims of every green-tea supplement brand are: 1) It is a stronger antioxidant than Vitamin C and E so it cleans up free radicals and protects cells from destruction; 2) aids weight loss by suppressing appetite and burning fat; 3) prevents the formation of cancerous tumors; 4) prevents cavity and plaque-causing bacteria from sticking to the teeth; 5) added into skincare preparations, it reverses skin damage and prevents skin cancer; and 6) boosts the immune system.

Hey, others might not have worked for me, but I figured: "What if this one was different?"

One bottle had 90 tablets. It looked a lot, but you had to take two tablets with every main meal so 90 was actually only a 15-day supply. My first two bottles lasted one month and I did not exercise anymore.

Week 1 at starting weight of 111 pounds. I had trouble sleeping at night as I was caffeine-sensitive. But by the sixth evening, I had adjusted to it. I stuck to my same low-carbohydrate, high-protein diet maintenance, and I was pleased by my more regular bathroom habits. During Day 2 onward, I noticed I would "go" after every meal and I was even perkier than usual—I would be dancing in place unconsciously and talking 20 miles a minute—which drove most people around me crazy. In their words: *"Ang kuliiiit!"* Lost two pounds at end of Day 7, and I could not be happier. It worked! I was down to 109 pounds.

Week 2. PMS beat green tea! I binged on carbs the whole week due to PMS and started stress eating due to several reasons. I gained four pounds at the end of the week, which actually wasn't that bad because I normally gain three to four pounds before my period. When I usually binge on carbs, though, I gain five pounds easily even without PMS. So there was still an indication that the tablets were working even if I did gain back the pounds I lost—plus two more, 113 pounds.

Week 3. So much for the immune system. I finally had my period and I had a product launch in Hong Kong for three days. Walked a lot but I also ate all those good Hong Kong food—carbs and all. I felt bloated and I was anxious about my weight when I got home to Manila. My immune system gave way though and the moment I boarded the plane home I felt a fever set in—so much for that added green-tea benefit. Fever lasted till week 4, but at the end of week 3, I weighed myself and found I had lost six pounds! Three of those pounds belonged to the end of my period, the last three, I supposed, came from all that walking and fever. Still, without the green-tea tablets I would just lose three pounds and even if I was walking a lot, I ate Yang Chow fried rice and noodle soups like there was no tomorrow so that would have kept my weight up. I was 107 pounds.

Week 4. I was back to my low-carbohydrate diet, but added 1,000-mg vitamin C, alpha lipoic acid, glutathione, garlic oil, fever tablets and zinc to my regime. The additions didn't have weight-loss benefits so I could really monitor the weight loss effects of green tea while getting well and boosting my immune system as well. I got well before week 4 ended and lost another three pounds; so I was down to 104 pounds. That's 7 lbs. off in 28 days! I decided to make it an even 30 and lost another one pound in those two extra days with no added exercise. So the ground total: Eight pounds lost in 30 days.

Universal Nutrition Thermo Green Tea is exclusively available at Healthy Options.

UNIVERSAL Nutrition Green Tea, P1,090

> I lost 8 pounds in just a month! Could there be any better testimony than that?

Beauty announcement

Those of you looking for Louis Philippe Kee would be glad to know he now has his own salon in Legaspi Village, Makati, called Razzle Dazzle. You may call 8482388 or 8402880 and book an appointment from Oct. 3 onward. His most recent panel coloring has been a hit with clients because it is low-maintenance but flatters the skin tone and face shape even when makeup-free.

BODY TUNE offers the works, from massages to facials, body scrubs to seaweed baths.

Scrubs and spa services to tune up the body

A BODY SCRUB EXFOLIATES dead skin, clearing it of dry, scaly skin that is a beauty no-no.

While there are a number of scrubs available on the market, it is best to let the experts do the nitty-gritty of keeping your skin smooth and supple.

Body Tune now offers a full-body Thai fruit scrub. The acid in the fruits used in the scrub not only gets rid of unwanted dead skin, it has a mild lightening effect that adds to the potency of the scrub.

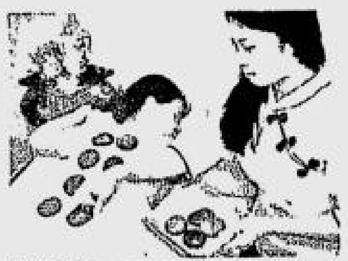
The Thai fruit scrub is just one of the treatments available at Body Tune, which also offers the Xiamen foot massage, which works on the different pressure points on the feet to rid the body of stress and improve the different functions of the body.

Other ancient but effective treatments include the back or full-body massage, herbal foot soak, and foot scrub.

Body Tune offers a full menu of spa services. Its specialty massage is the traditional Thai massage, which does not use oil.

Other massages are Sparoma aromatherapy, volcanic stone, Swedish, shiatsu, holistic, which is a combination of Swedish and shiatsu, twin, cellulite, Thai foot, hand, chair, and chair with scalp.

Body Tune also offers Balinese massage, a traditional oil-based therapy from Indonesia that works at easing muscle and joint pain.



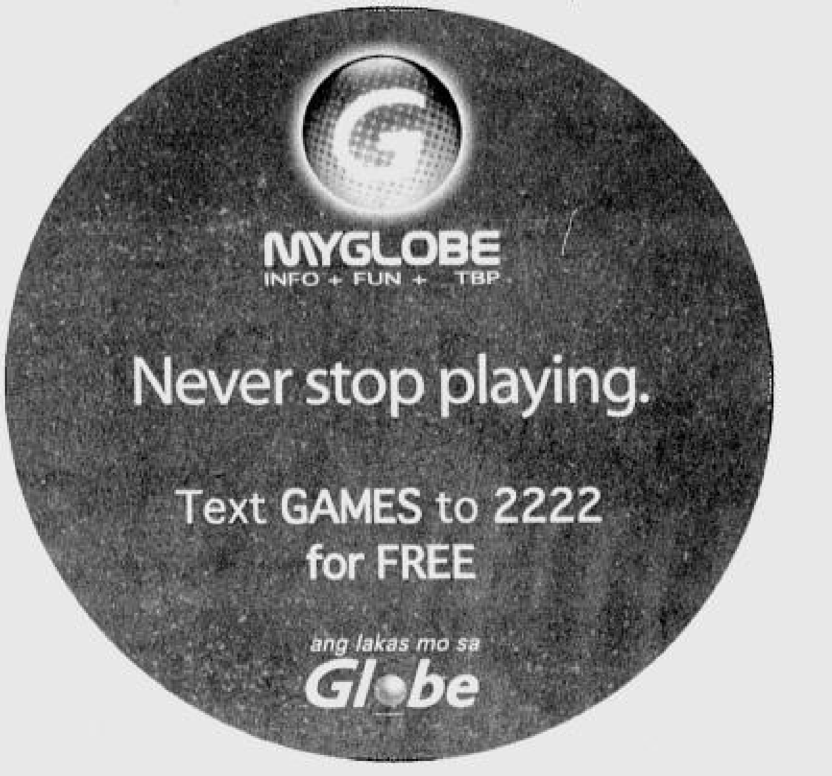
STONE massage

Body Tune also has a number of body treatments such as the granular two-in-one scrub massage, Dead Sea salt scrub, seaweed body scrub, honey body polish, body moor mud wrap, body bleaching, underarm whitening, whitening scrub, seaweed moor mud wrap and oatmeal nourishing buff.

Also available are facial treatments such as the aroma facial massage, facial scrub with mask and nonsurgical facelift.

Hand-and-foot care services include spa manicure, spa pedicure, foot spa, manicure, and pedicure.

Body Tune has branches at The Block in SM City North Edsa, and also at SM Megamall, SM City Bicutan, SM City Bacoor, SM City Baguio, SM City Dasmariñas, SM City Batangas, SM South Mall, SM City Pampanga, SM City Marilao, SM City Fairview, SM City Cebu, SM City Sucat, SM Mall of Asia, SM Megamall, and Market! Market!



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- 2.5" LCD
- High resolution 16:9 widescreen mode

DC10
- 1.3 megapixels
- 2.5" LCD
- High resolution 16:9 widescreen mode

*In its megapixel class as of March 2006

"Dolby" and the double-D symbol are trademarks of Dolby Laboratories.

DIGIC DV

DVD R/RW is a trademark of DVD Format/Logo Licensing Corporation.

3 DVD-Rs, battery pack and carrying case when you buy a Canon DC10, DC20, DC40 or DC100.

Promo is extended until September 30, 2006. As approved by DTI-NCR. Per DTI-NCR Permit No.3029 Series of 2006.

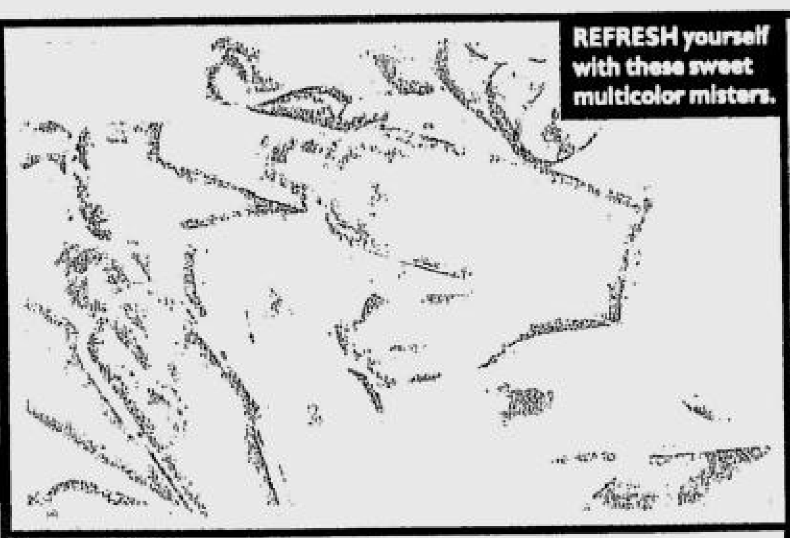
Insist on an original warranty issued by Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc.

Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc. 2F Marvin Plaza, 2153 Don Chino Roces Avenue cor. V.A. Rufino St., Makati City
Tels.: 884-9000 • Fax: 810-9797 • info@canon.com.ph • www.canon.com.ph

Available at:

appliance ABENSON avant ABENSON Western Ambassador Anson's Colours Canon d zone PHOTOLINE Picture City Digital E-Mart AVSurfer VillMan Allied Micro Products Inc. Magic Appliance Center Silicon Valley

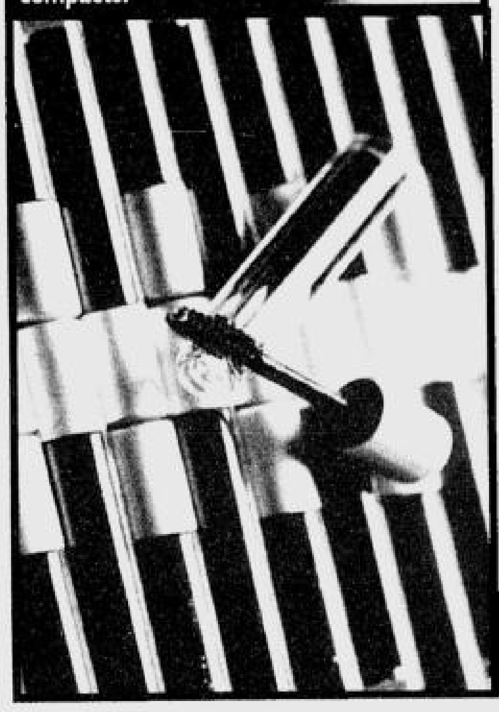
BUFF up now with these chocolate compacts.



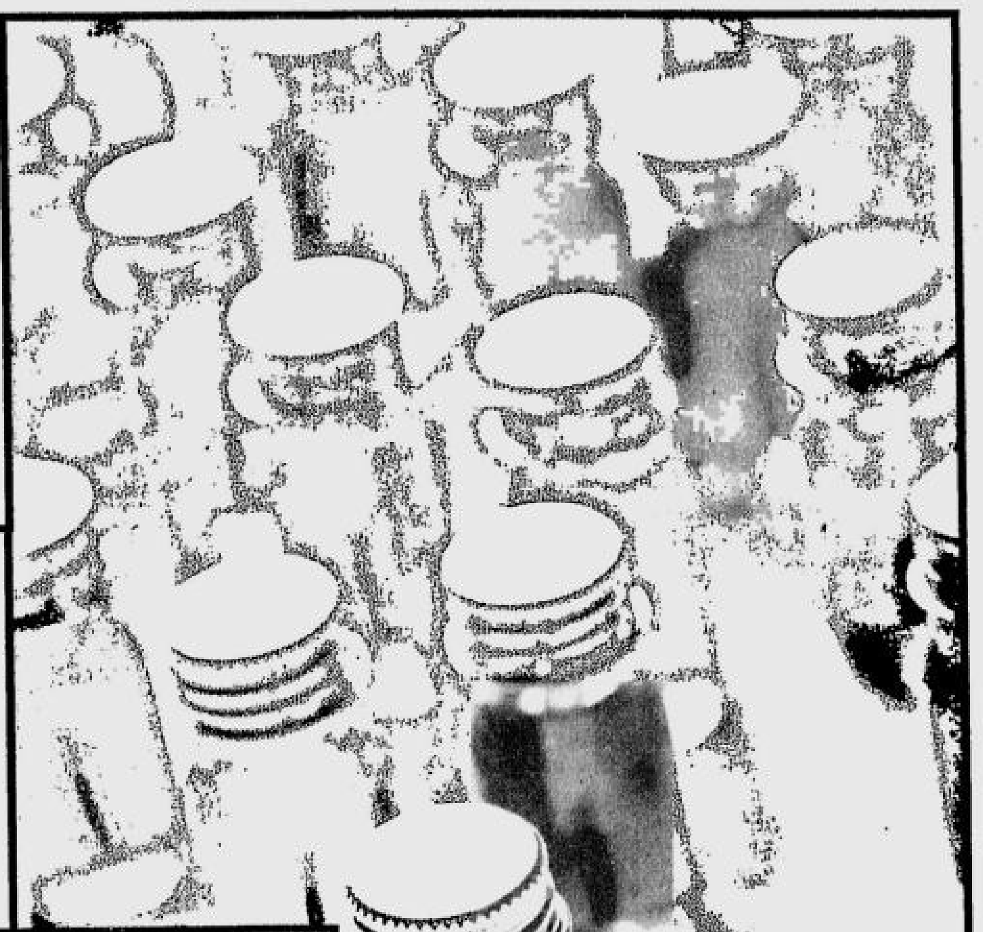
REFRESH yourself with these sweet multicolor misters.

looks great, tastes even better

LOVE makeup? Enjoy mouth watering dessert packaged in your fav makeup containers at Circles Events Café, Makati Shangri-la.

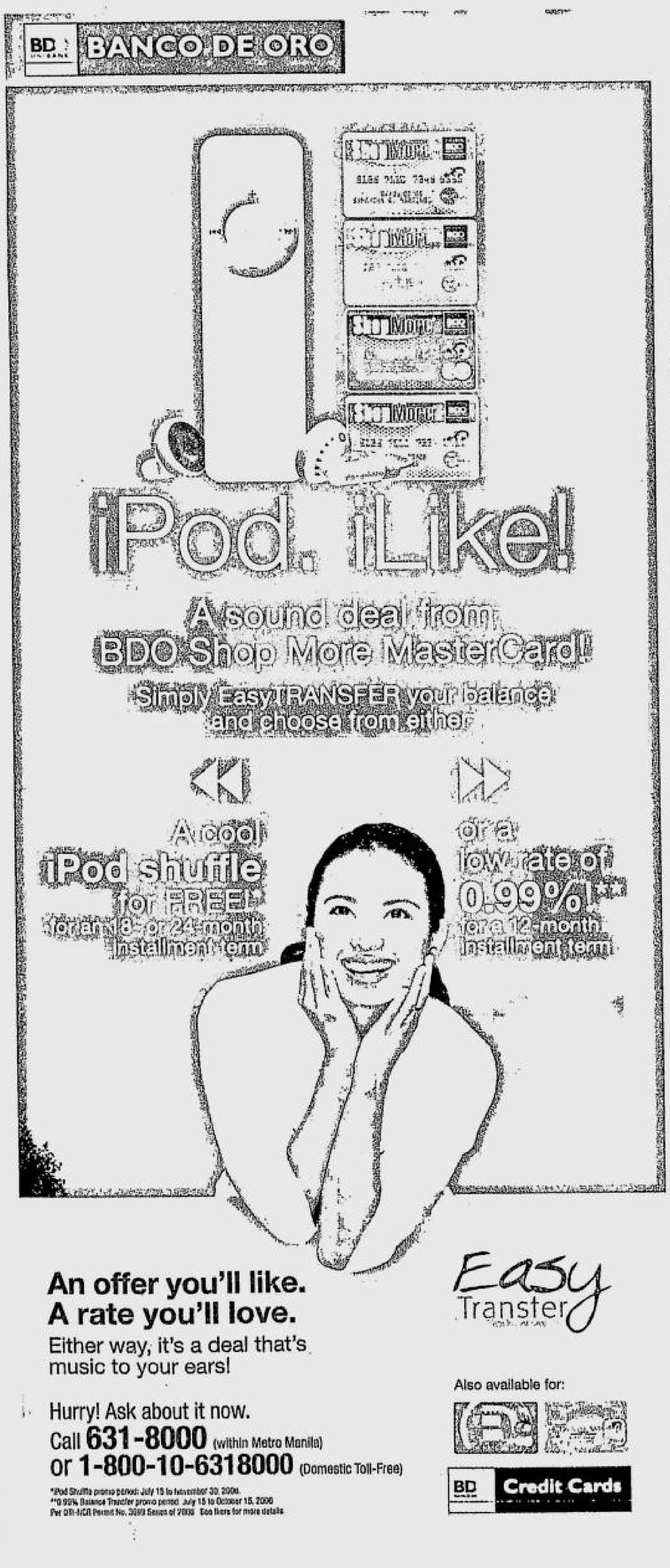


CURL up with sugary syrup mascara.



POLISH your taste buds with flavored nail gloss.

TRY on the new shade of chocolate lipstick.



iPod. iLike!

A sound deal from BDO Shop More MasterCard!

Simply EasyTRANSFER your balance and choose from either

A cool iPod shuffle for FREE!* for an 18- or 24-month installment term

or a low rate of 0.99%!** for a 12-month installment term

An offer you'll like.
A rate you'll love.

Either way, it's a deal that's music to your ears!

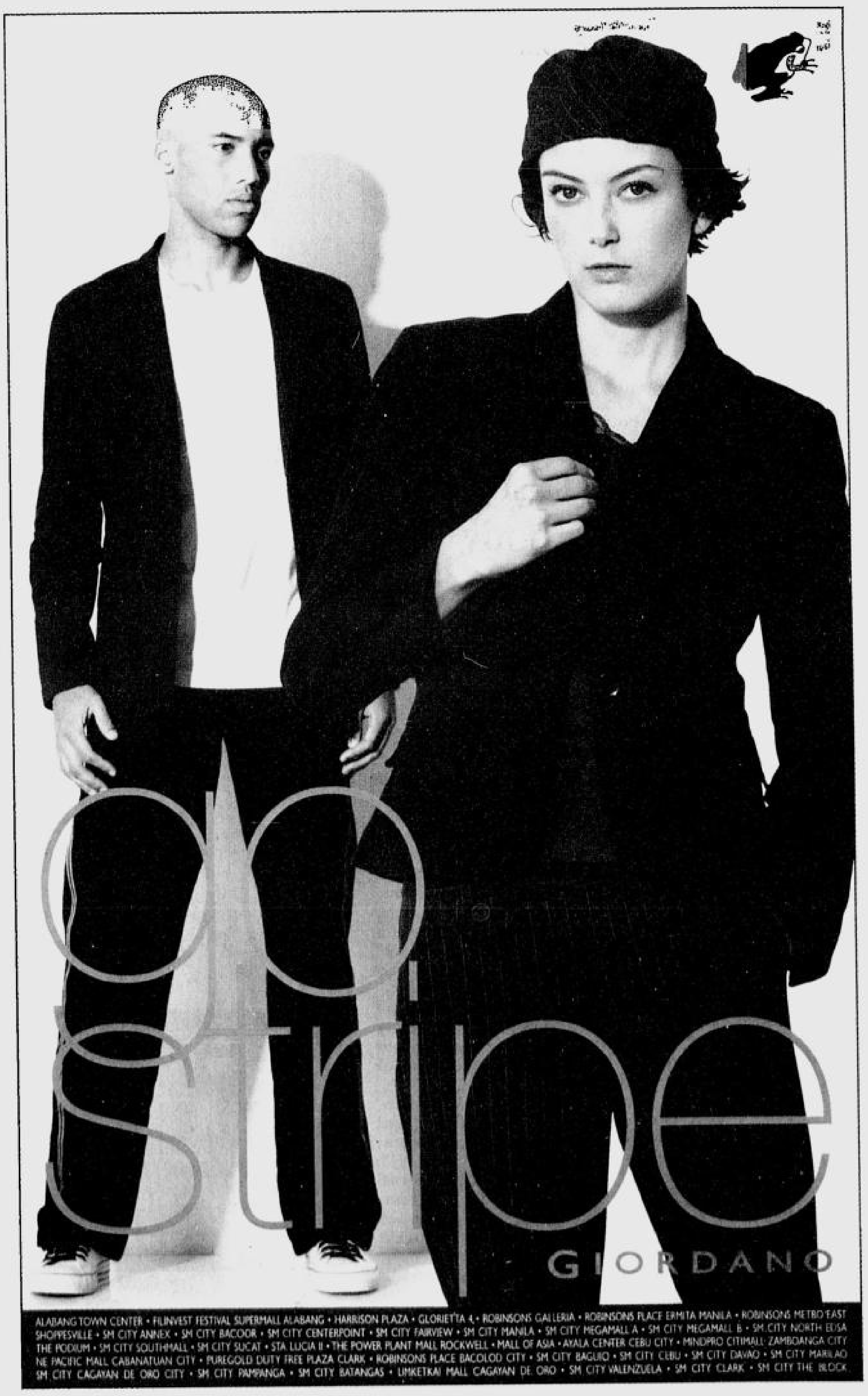
Hurry! Ask about it now.
Call **631-8000** (within Metro Manila)
or **1-800-10-6318000** (Domestic Toll-Free)

*iPod Shuffle promo period: July 15 to November 30, 2006.
**0.99% Balance Transfer promo period: July 15 to October 15, 2006
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3699 Series of 2006. See fliers for more details.

Easy Transfer

Also available for:

BD Credit Cards



ALABANG TOWN CENTER • FILINVEST FESTIVAL SUPERMALL ALABANG • HARRISON PLAZA • GLORIETTA 4 • ROBINSONS GALLERIA • ROBINSONS PLACE ERMITA MANILA • ROBINSONS METRO EAST SHOPPESVILLE • SM CITY ANNEX • SM CITY BACOOR • SM CITY CENTERPOINT • SM CITY FAIRVIEW • SM CITY MANILA • SM CITY MEGAMALL A • SM CITY MEGAMALL B • SM CITY NORTH EDSA THE PODIUM • SM CITY SOUTHMALL • SM CITY SUCAT • STA LUCIA II • THE POWER PLANT MALL ROCKWELL • MALL OF ASIA • AYALA CENTER CEBU CITY • MINDPRO CITIMALL ZAMBOANGA CITY NE PACIFIC MALL CABANATUAN CITY • PUREGOLD DUTY FREE PLAZA CLARK • ROBINSONS PLACE BACOLOD CITY • SM CITY BAGUIO • SM CITY CEBU • SM CITY DAVAO • SM CITY MARILAO SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY • SM CITY PAMPANGA • SM CITY BATANGAS • LIMKETKAI MALL CAGAYAN DE ORO • SM CITY VALENZUELA • SM CITY CLARK • SM CITY THE BLOCK

Contributing editors Jenni Epperson and Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

LIFESTYLE
FASHION
Neo
print

IN THIS ISSUE

NOT-SO-BASIC tees /I4

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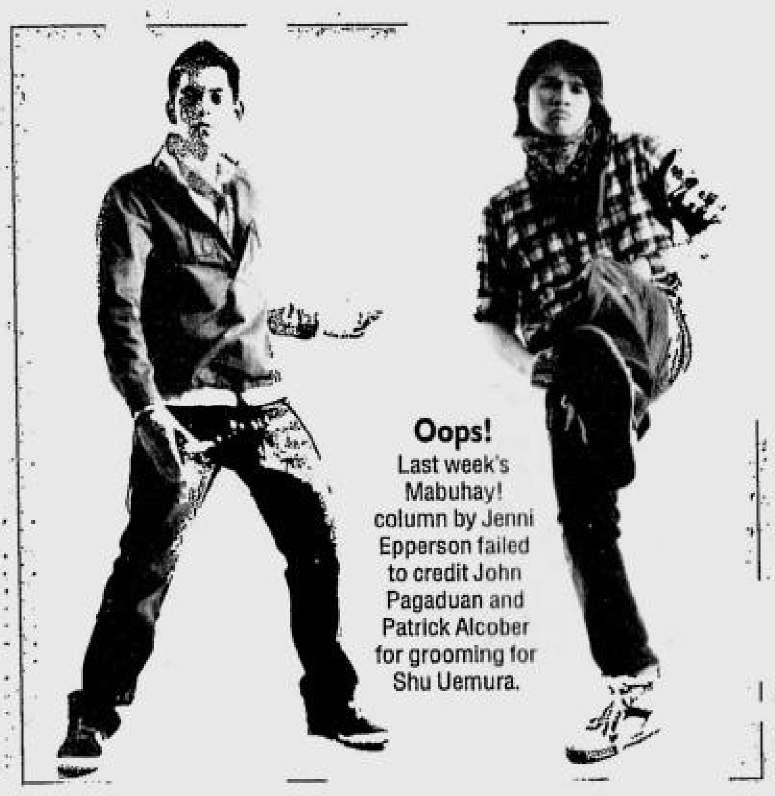
FASHION BUZZ

LAYERING in the city /J2

AVANT-gorgeous creations /I3



Oops!
Last week's Mabuhay! column by Jenni Epperson failed to credit John Pagaduan and Patrick Alcober for grooming for Shu Uemura.

FURLA
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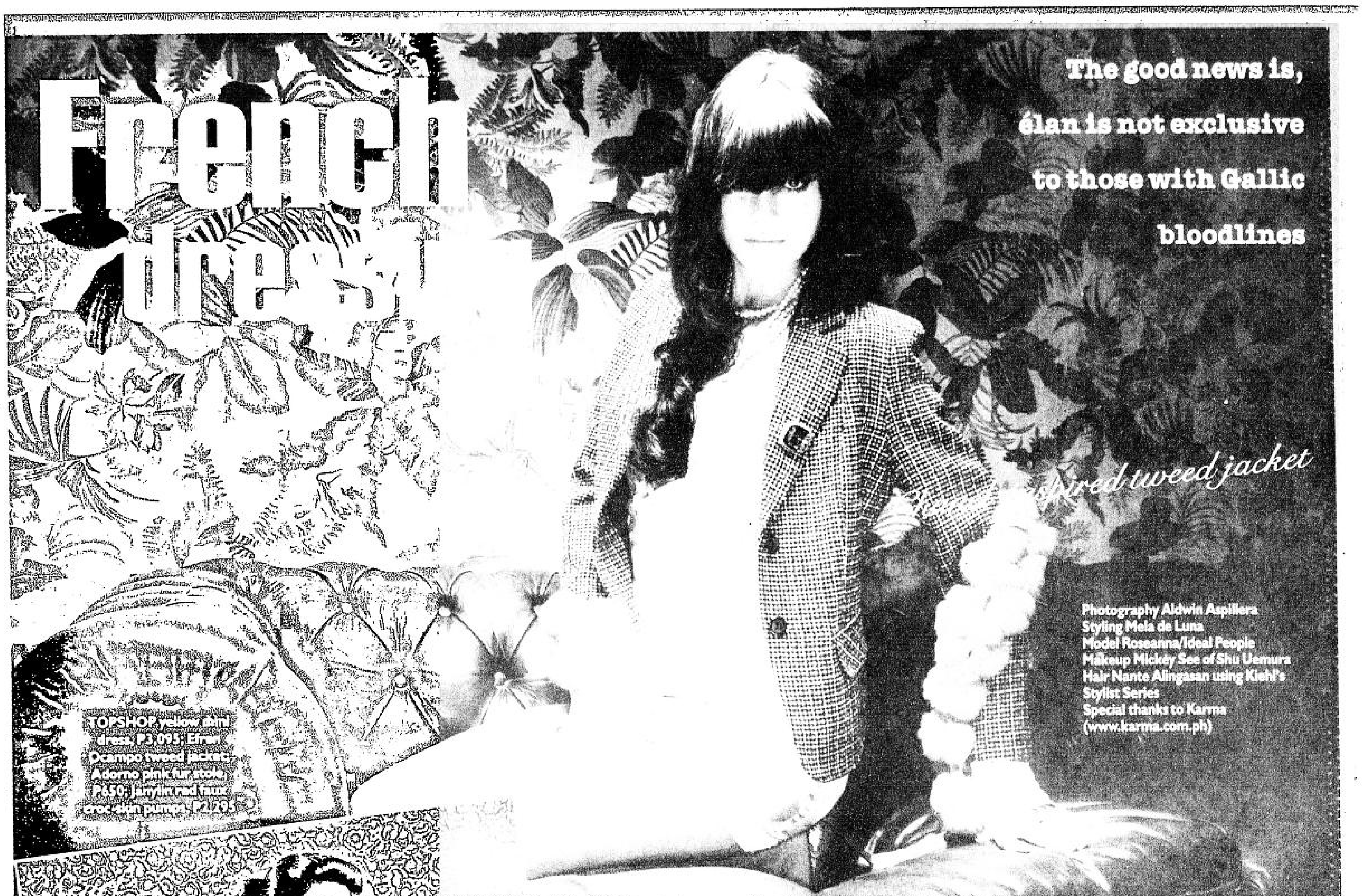
2/F RUSTAN'S MAKATI, AYALA CENTER TEL. + 632 867 2232
WWW.FURLA.COM

French dress

The good news is, élan is not exclusive to those with Gallic bloodlines



TOPSHOP yellow [illegible] dress, P3,095; Ernest Ocampo tweed jacket; Adorno pink fur stole, P650; Janylin red faux croc-skin pumps, P2,295

Photography Aldwin Aspillera
Styling Mela de Luna
Model Roseanna/Ideal People
Makeup Mickey See of Shu Uemura
Hair Nante Alingasan using Kiehl's Stylist Series
Special thanks to Karma (www.karma.com.ph)

MEL[illegible] green brocade Crisa de N[illegible] trench coat, P3,450, avail[illegible] at Atelier Debbie Co; Adorno vintage striped sleeveless multicolored dress, P950 and orange and blue printed scarf, P250; Janylin faux croc-skin pumps, P2,295

THE LEGENDARY Coco Chanel once said, "Look for the woman in the dress. If there is no woman, there is no dress."

[illegible] woman [illegible]

[illegible] French women [illegible] different personal styles. [illegible]

When [illegible] Vanessa Paradis, [illegible] Bardot, such style icons.

We like to think [illegible] simple [illegible] approach to fashion. French women don't always follow fashion trends. Instead, they invest in good quality [illegible]

[illegible] Gallic bloodlines. Glamour and [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] glamour [illegible] should [illegible] highlight your assets and disguise flaws.

[illegible] like a chic French woman simply by [illegible] Gallic flavor into your wardrobe.

Take inspiration from [illegible] fashion and style [illegible]

And remember, wear your clothes. Not the other way around.

E-mail [illegible]@inquirer [illegible]

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

TOPSHOP [illegible]

Striped sailor shirt

DETAILS striped [illegible] P750 [illegible] P1,750 [illegible] Marni's Room [illegible] Janylin [illegible]

Dior New Look-inspired skirt

HAPPY Days [illegible] P250 [illegible] Atelier [illegible] P1,500 [illegible] Janylin white strappy [illegible]

French dressing

The good news is, élan is not exclusive to those with Gallic bloodlines

Chanel-inspired tweed jacket

Photography Aldwin Aspillera
Styling Mela de Luna
Model Roseanna/Ideal People
Makeup Mickey See of Shu Uemura
Hair Nante Alingasan using Kiehl's
Stylist Series
Special thanks to Karma
(www.karma.com.ph)

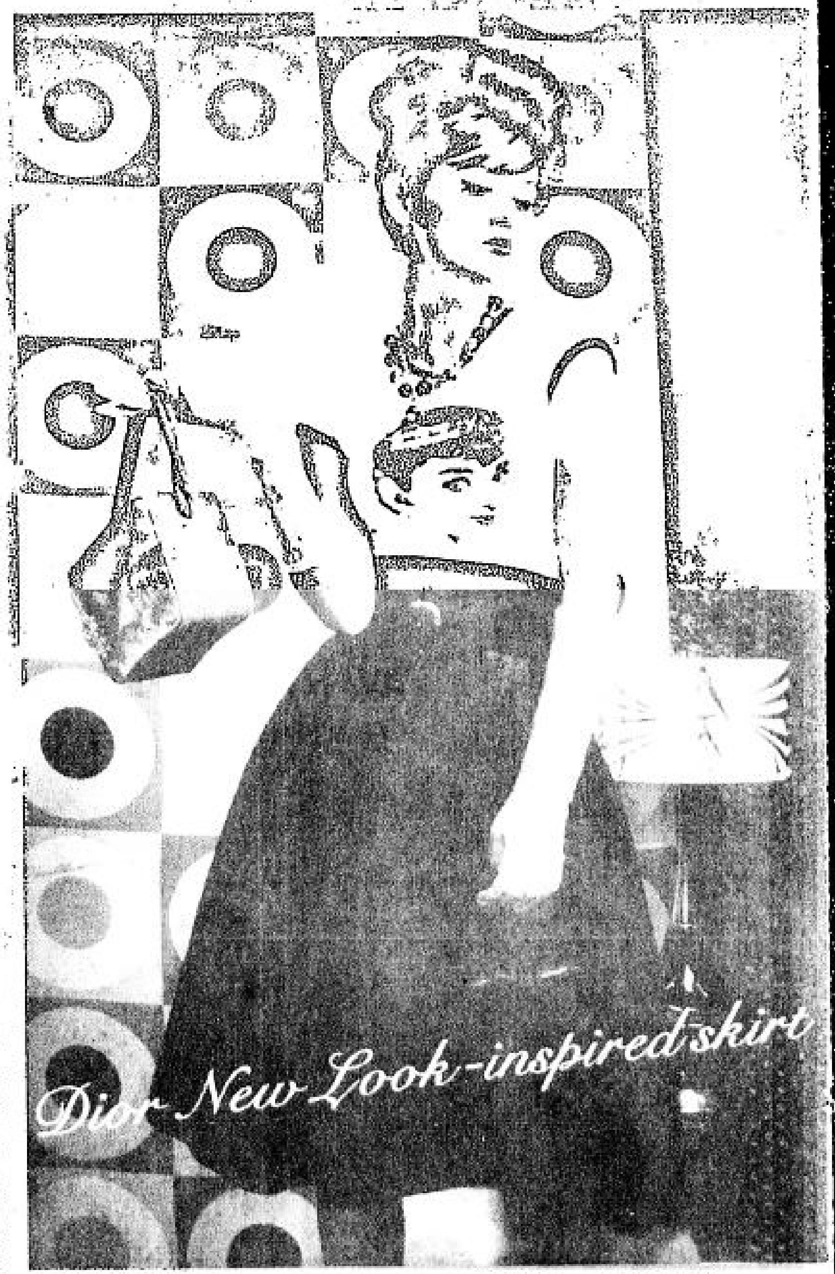
TOPSHOP [illegible] dress, P3,095; Erwin Ocampo tweed jacket; Azorro pink fur stole, P150; Janylin red faux croc skin purse, P2,795

MEL[illegible] green brocade Casa de N[illegible] trench coat, P3,450, available at Atelier Debbie Co; Azorro vintage striped sleeveless multicolored dress, P950 and orange and blue printed scarf, P150; Janylin faux crocodile [illegible] P2,795

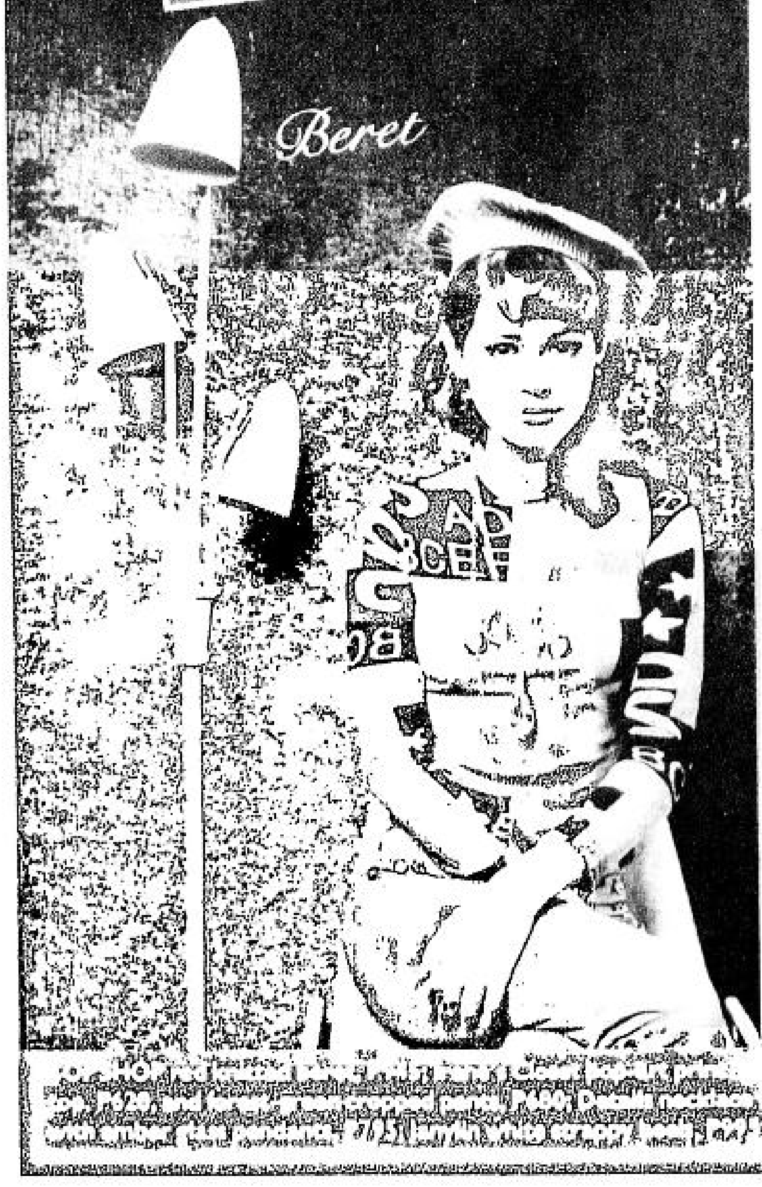
APPLES' PICKINGS

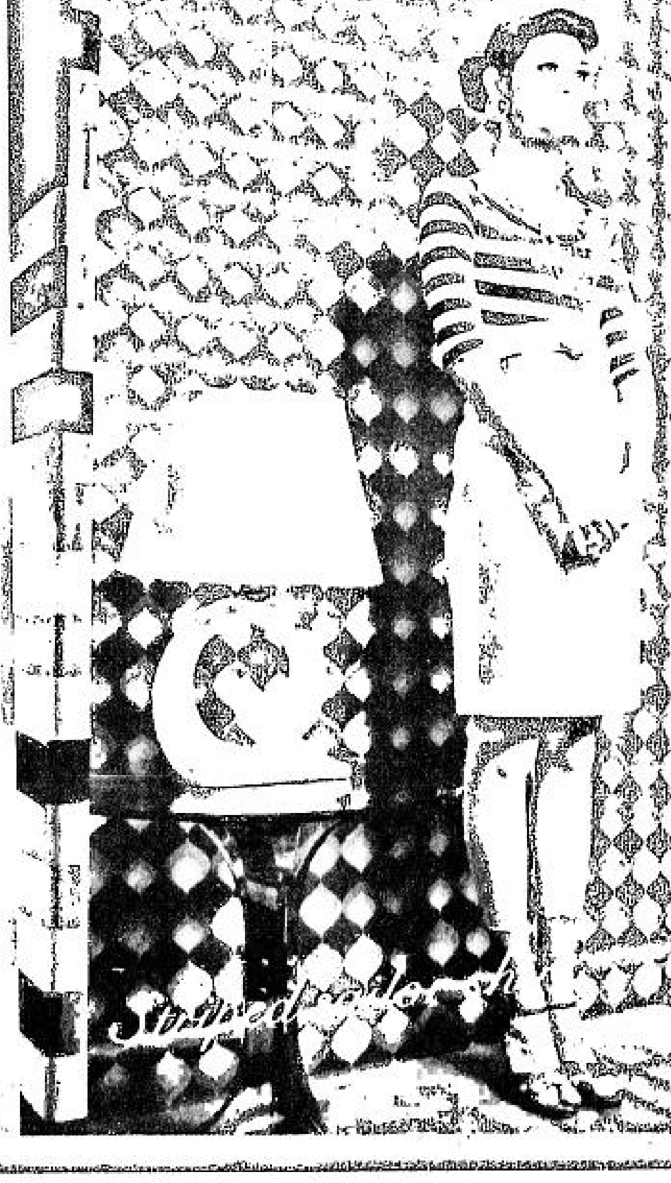
Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

T[illegible]



Dior New Look-inspired skirt





Striped sailor shirt

RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

French dress

The good news is, élan is not exclusive to those with Gallic bloodlines

Chanel-inspired tweed jacket

TOPSHOP yellow [illegible] dress, P3,095; Efren Ocampo tweed jacket; Adorno pink fur stole, P650; Janylin red faux croc-skin pumps, P2,295

Photography Aldwin Aspillera
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Hair Nante Alingasan using Kiehl's Stylist Series
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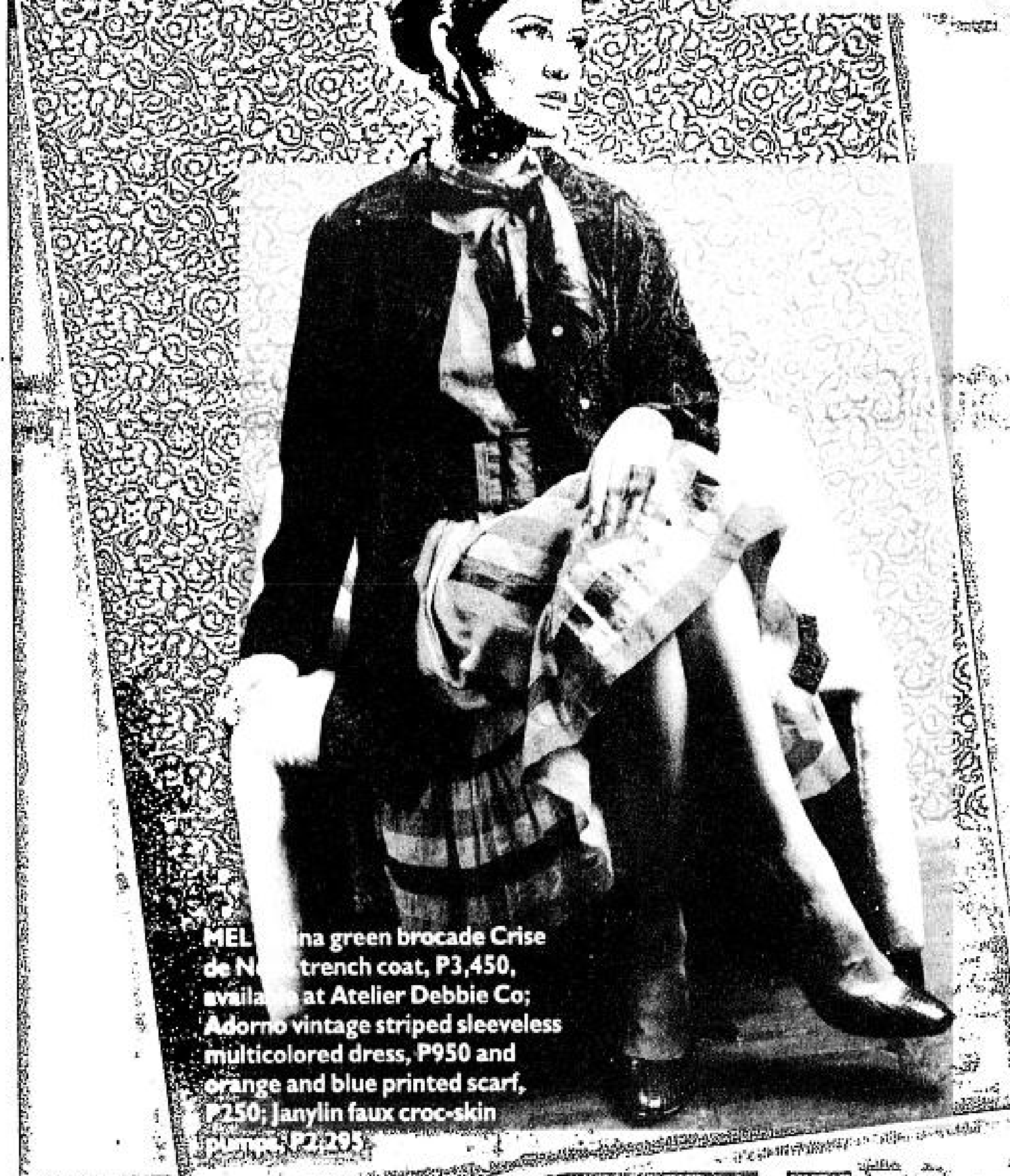


MEL [illegible]na green brocade Crise de N[illegible] trench coat, P3,450, availa[illegible] at Atelier Debbie Co; Adorno vintage striped sleeveless multicolored dress, P950 and orange and blue printed scarf, P250; Janylin faux croc-skin pumps, P2,295

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

THE LEGENDARY Coco Chanel once spoke: "Look for the woman in the dress. If there is no woman, there is no dress."

[illegible] always about a woman's [illegible], after all.

The French woman's [illegible] French women [illegible] to the [illegible] dress with glamour [illegible] French women possess [illegible] emulated by women all around the globe.

What is it exactly that makes a French woman so chic, anyway? [illegible] Anouk Aimee and Vanessa Paradis, not to mention Brigitte Bardot, such style icons?

Well, I'd like to think it's all due to a rather simple, although cultivated, approach to fashion. French women don't always follow fickle fashion trends. Instead, they invest in good-quality staples that suit their personality. Then, they dress up these basics with more disposable trendy items.

The good news is, élan is not exclusive to those with Gallic bloodlines. Glamour and style are, thankfully, not genetic; rather, these can be learned and developed.

If you want to dress with as much style as a Frenchwoman, take into account what works for your age and body type. You'll never pull off a look unless you're completely comfortable and confident. Next, dress according to your personality, and never follow trends unless they suit you. Remember, clothes are not just meant to obtain glamour. They should also be used to highlight your assets and disguise flaws.

On a more practical (and fun!) level, you can also dress like a chic French woman simply by borrowing some of their basics and mixing them with your own pieces. Items like the beret, tweed jacket à la Chanel with pearls, striped sailor shirts, a Dior New Look-inspired skirt or dress, and the ubiquitous scarf are all identified with French fashion and can help inject some Gallic flavor into your wardrobe.

Take inspiration from these different looks that Inquirer Fashion and stylist Mela de Luna put together to help you achieve a bit of French flair. Don't be scared to experiment and create different combinations, as long as you're comfortable.

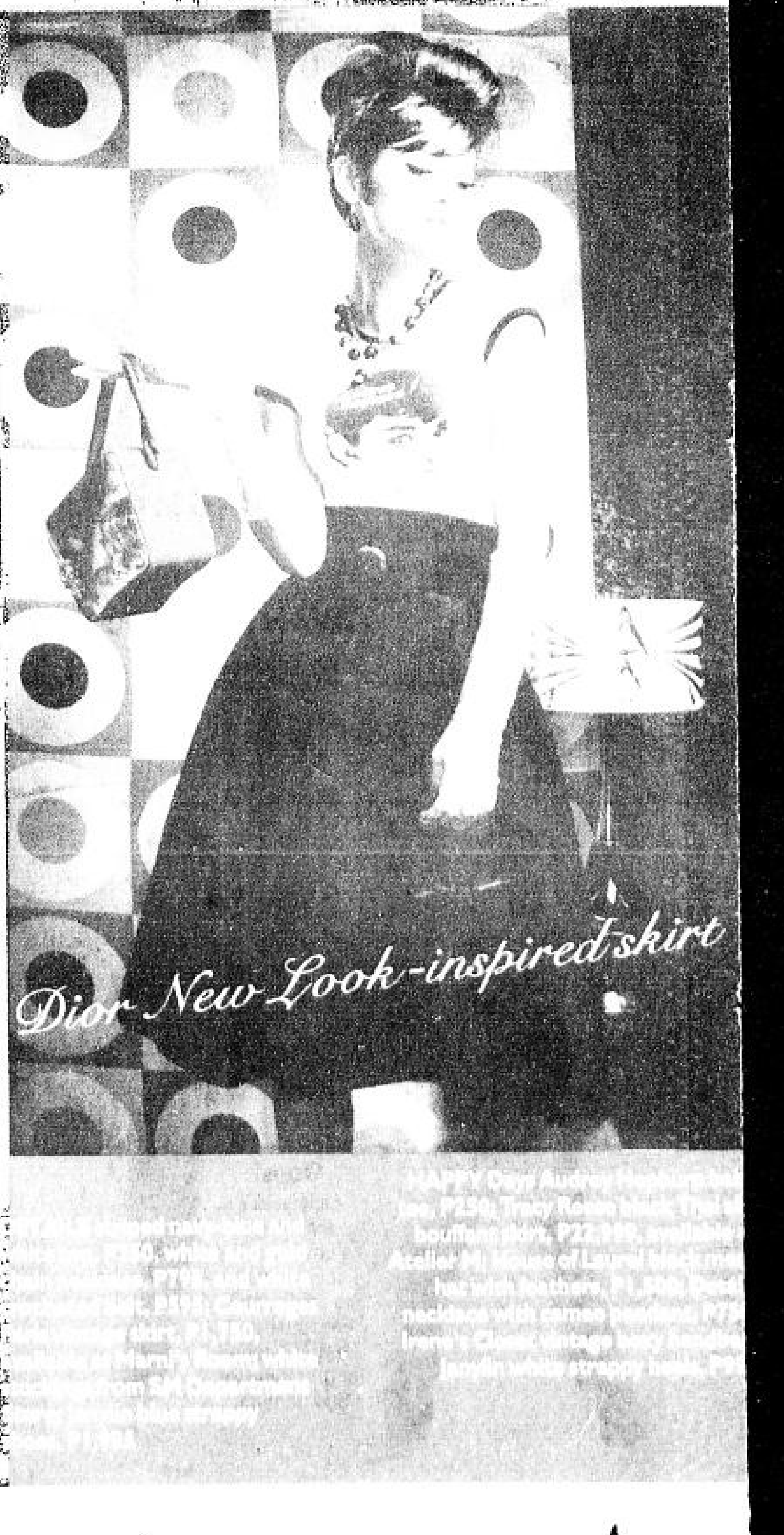
And remember: wear your clothes. Not the other way around.

E-mail the author at [illegible]fashion@inquirer.com.ph

Beret

TOPSHOP [illegible] top, P620; and [illegible] cropped pants, P[illegible]80; [illegible] Janylin [illegible], P2,295

Striped sailor shirt

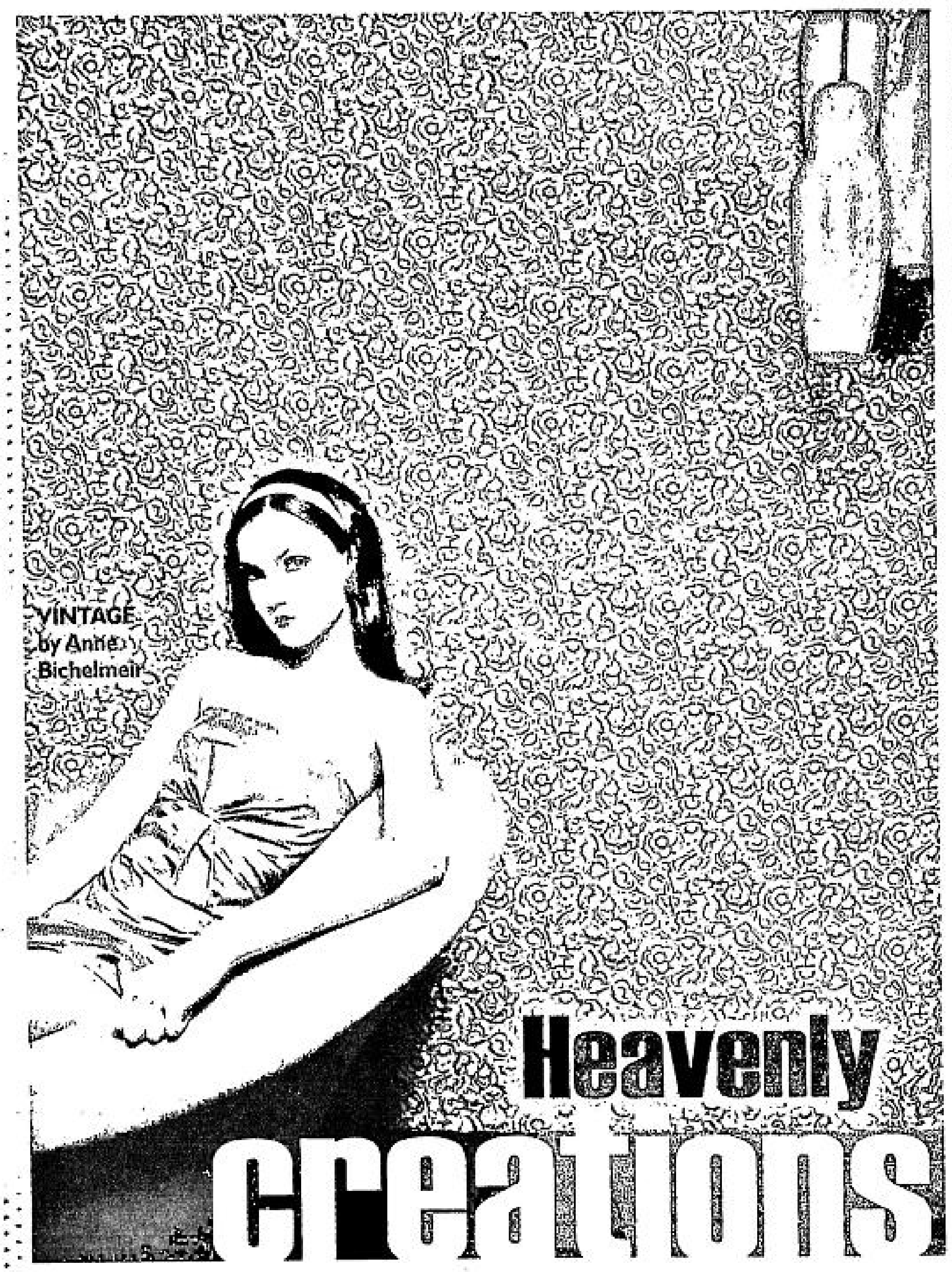


Dior New Look-inspired skirt

[illegible]

HAPPY Days Audrey [illegible] P250; Tracy Reese black [illegible] P22,950, available [illegible] Atelier [illegible] House of Laurel black [illegible] Janylin white strappy heels, P[illegible]

RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME



VINTAGE by Anne Bichelmeir

Heavenly creations

CRÉATEUR À LA Mode or C.A.M by Cinderella has definitely kept its promise of providing stylish, wearable and affordable fashion available to the modern-day urban woman.

The brand has designs and limited pieces created and conceptualized locally, giving homage to the creativity and talent of Filipinos in RTW.

A new crop of designers/entrepreneurs have created their latest collections for this season, assuring a complete line of frocks for women, from casual and contemporary to corporate and cocktail.

Ang Pambansang T-Shirt by Team Manila

Unlike any of the *pasalubong* tees you'll find in airports, Team Manila's tees look so cool that they make you even more proud to be Pinoy. Unlike your usual silk-screened tee, the Pambansang T-shirt boasts of specially designed T-shirts, bags and accessories that are produced in limited quantities. They are, in effect, the translated artworks of the group's overflowing creativity.

Lava by Caroline Malagar

"Fashion, works of art, people who wear Lava's designs and passion for style" are among the inspirations of Caroline Malagar, 28-year-old designer of Lava. Classic pieces are given chic and modern twists via new designs, fabrics and colors. Malagar creates several limited tops and dresses per month, giving her buyers a sense of exclusivity within their budget. Lava pieces are way comfy and can be perfectly paired with your favorite denims and stilettos.

Vintage by Anne Bichelmeir

Perfect for cocktail evenings, Vintage's pieces have a timeless, romantic and alluring look. One-of-a-kind pieces composed of dresses, blouses and skirts with dainty embroideries or intricate beading create a look that is both sexy and feminine.

I.Con by Margaret Vazquez

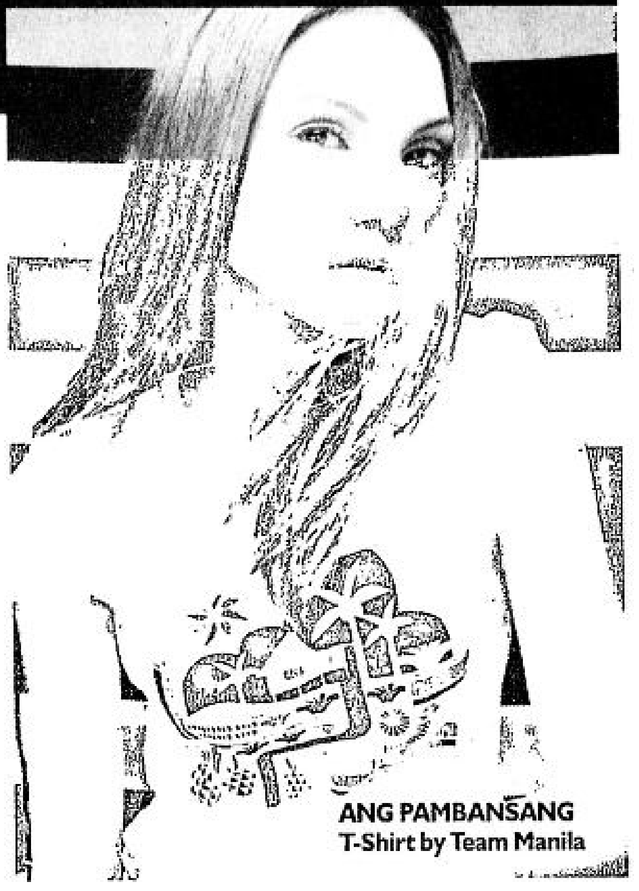
Corporate looks with a fashionista twist are what I.Con is about. Imagine your white, crisp, tailored and collared tops with bell-sleeve details, or better yet pintucks that reflects Karl Lagerfeld's tuxedo blouse. How about channeling Diane Von Furstenberg's famous wrap dresses? I.Con definitely makes going to the office much more stylish. It finds inspiration in women who understand fashion yet never fall victim to it. She is a wise buyer, appreciating that quality, fit and timeless silhouettes are of more value especially if she works hard for her money.

After Six by Cherie Carriaga

A collection composed of evening blouses and skirts that give emphasis to simple beading, ruching and stitching, this brand produces clothes that are great for semi-dressy occasions and casual night-outs. It uses luxe fabrics and a color palette focused on black and off-white, complemented by dashes of bright colors.

C.A.M is located exclusively at Cinderella SM Megamall branch.

I.CON by Margaret Vazquez



ANG PAMBANSANG T-Shirt by Team Manila

AFTER SIX by Cherie Carriaga

2006 DISCOVER HONG KONG
HONG KONG. LIVE IT. LOVE IT!
HONG KONG TOURISM BOARD
Asia's world city
HONG KONG

2006 DISCOVER HONG KONG YEAR

Some lanterns are meant to light up rooms, others to light up lives.

Mid-Autumn Lantern Celebration in Hong Kong

From 30th September to 15th October, the whole of Hong Kong comes alive with the mega-event, **Mid-Autumn Lantern Celebration**. As you enter the **Mid-Autumn Lantern Carnival**, you'll be greeted by the **Lantern Wonderland**, an exquisite giant mechanical lantern that is the centerpiece of the carnival. Another special part of this carnival is the **Lantern Gala**, which features the best lanterns from Hong Kong's different districts. What's more, visitors to Hong Kong can obtain a Wishing Lantern to make a wish upon, that they can hang on one of the many **Wishing Lantern Trails** in the city.

But there's also a lot more to enjoy at this festival. You could take part in the famed **Fire Dragon Dance** that features a 67-metre long dragon studded with burning joss sticks or sample delicious moon cakes and indulge on what **Hong Kong Culinary Delights** has to offer. It features a series of gastronomic programmes such as the **Seafood Festival**, **Culinary Master Classes** and **Food District Festival** which are designed to take you on an unforgettable dining adventure. And don't forget the fantastic shopping and diverse world-class attractions to dazzle your senses. So make your Hong Kong travel plans now, and experience **2006 Discover Hong Kong Year** to the full!

For more information, please visit **DiscoverHongKong.com**

Feel the jitters of Super Value Savings.

PRE-HALLOWEEN SALE

THE CHAIN MARTS!
SUPER VALUE STORES
FROM SEPT 29 TO OCT 15, 2006
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3666, series of 2006

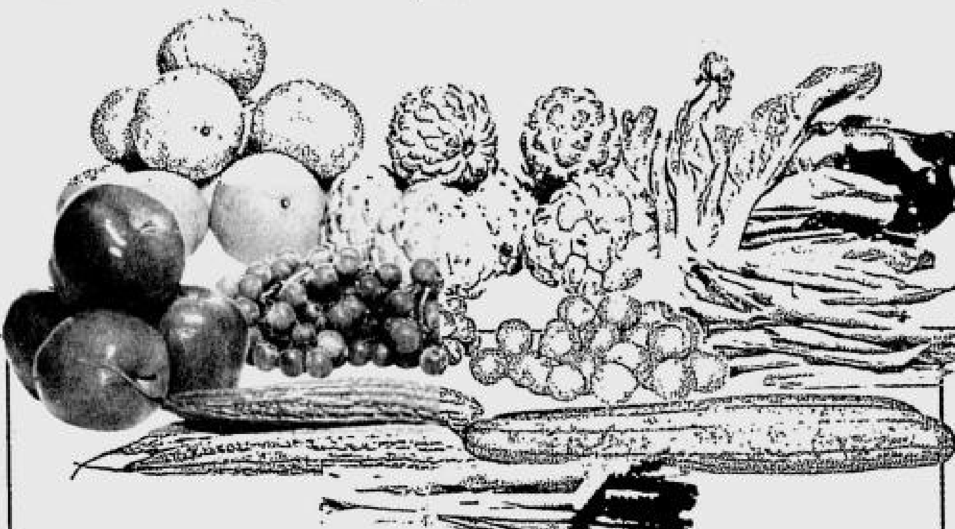
MAKATI Supermart ALABANG

UniMart

CASH & CARRY SUPERMARKET

Campbell's
Cream of Mushroom Soup, USA
305g P38.25/can

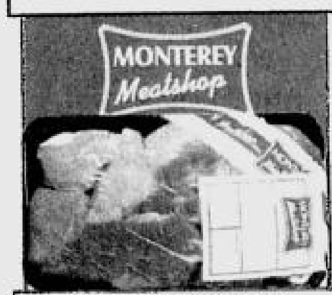
Coffee-Mate
Coffee Creamer, The Original
311.8g P99.50/bot
170g P68.25/bot



Ponkan P78.75/kg • Baguio Beans P39.90/kg • Ampalaya P36.75/kg • Atis P57.75/kg • Flame Seedless Grapes P178.50/kg • Patola P15.75/kg • Native Pechay P36.75/kg • Calamansi P11.50/kg • Washington Red Apple #125 P89.25/kg • Leeks P68.25/kg

Welch's
100% Grape Juice
1.89lt P190.50/bot

Yame
Pudding w/ Nata de Coco
Mango, Lychee
6's X 100g P52.50/pk

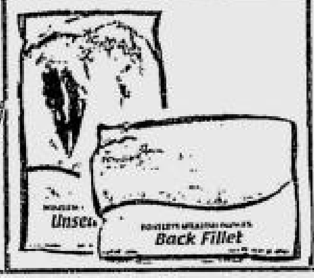


Monterey Meatshop
Beef, Tocino P315.00/kg
Beef, Short Ribs P193.50/kg
Pork, Smoked Chops P166.50/[illegible]
Pork Cubes P162.00/kg

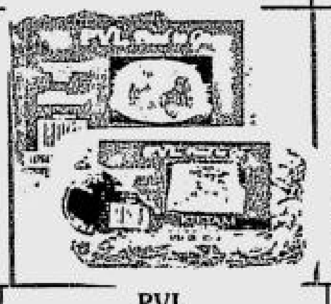
Purefoods
Beefies Hotdog Lots a Cheese!
Regular 1k P131.25/pk
Corned Beef 210g P48.95/can

MarcaPiña
Soy Sauce, Pet 1lt P24.50/bot
Sukang Puti, Pet 1lt P21.25/bot
Patis, Pet 1lt P25.95/bot

McCormick
Seasoning Mix Mushroom Gravy 25g P16.80/pk
Beef & Herb 30g, Chicken Gravy 28g P15.10/pk



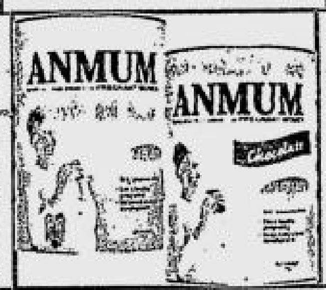
Seaking
Boneless Milkfish
Frozen, Unseasoned
120g P99.50/pk
Back Fillet 450g P61.50/pk



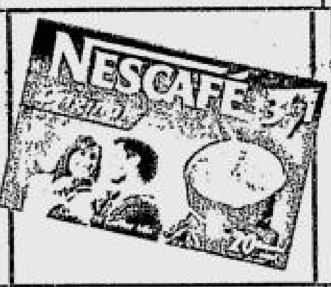
PVL
Food To Go
Chicken Tapa, Chicken Tocino
250g P65.00/pk
Kikiam 3pcs. P139.95/pk

Campbell's
Condensed Soup
Golden Mushroom
305g P68.25/can

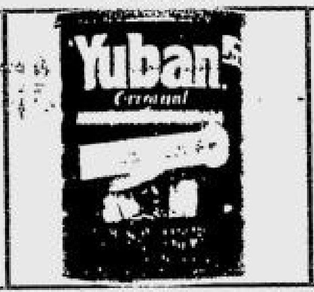
Spring
Pure Vegetable Cooking Oil
Plastic
3.2k P174.25/bot 1.6k P95.25/bot
1lt P49.85/bot



Anmum
Powdered Milk Drink
Plain, Chocolate
1k P592.50/can



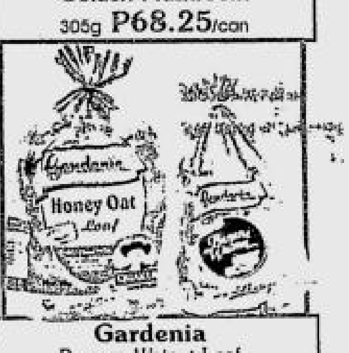
Nescafe
3 in 1 Original Complete Coffee Mix
16's X 14g P140.25/pk
20's X 14g P79.25/pk
1 X 14g P40.95/pk 1 X 14g P23.90/pk



Yuban
Original Decaffeinated
Ground Coffee
340g P249.50/can

Magnolia Quickmelt!
Pasteurized Processed Cheese Spread
200g P50.85/pk
500g P125.65/pk

Magnolia
Gold Butter Salted, Unsalted
225g P52.75/pk



Gardenia
Banana Walnut Loaf
400g P80.75/loaf
Honey Oat Loaf
400g P42.75/loaf

Florida's
Natural 100% Florida Orange Juice Pasteurized, Original, Growers Style, Home Squeezed w/ Pulp, Home Squeezed Calcium & Vitamin w/ Pulp, Calcium & Vitamin D w/o Pulp
Natural 100% Pure Florida Grapefruit Juice Original Ruby Red
[illegible] P210.00/[illegible]

Country Time
Flavor Drink
Mix Lemonade, Pink Lemonade
822g P160.50/bot
538g P120.50/bot

Log Cabin
Country Kitchen Original Syrup
709ml P125.50/bot
Comstock
Re[illegible] Cherry Pie Filling or Topping
595g P125.50/[illegible]

Zest-O Big 250 Fruit Drink
Orange, Grape, Apple, Pineapple, Guyabano
[illegible] P42.50/[illegible]
Carbonated Beverages Regular, Pet [illegible] P25.75/bot
RC Cola, Rootbeer, Twist Lemonlime
Sparkle Orange [illegible] P25.75/[illegible]
Calamansi Soda, Dalandan Soda,
Fruitanda, Bunch Pet [illegible] P26.75/[illegible]

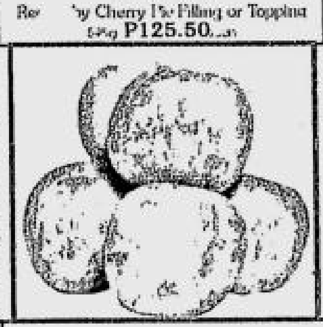
Hersheys
Kissables Milk Chocolate
Candy Coated
6's X 42g P163.50/pk

Kellog's
Coco Chex [illegible] P141.40/box
Froot Loops [illegible] P137.75/box
Cocoa Frosties [illegible] P132.75/box
Alaska
Christmas Evap Milk [illegible] P25.75/[illegible]

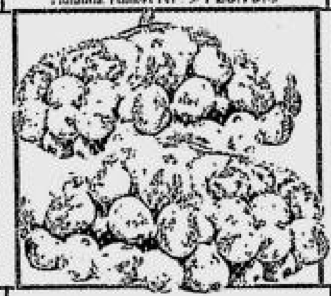
Nabisco
Chicken in a Biskit, Original
226g P125.50/box

Chinese Kangkong
P28.35/kg

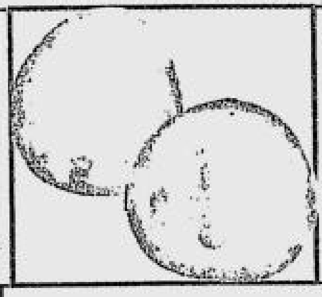
Cucumber
P31.50/kg



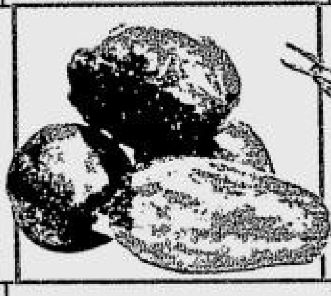
Fuji Apple
P78.75/kg



Lanzones
P78.75/kg



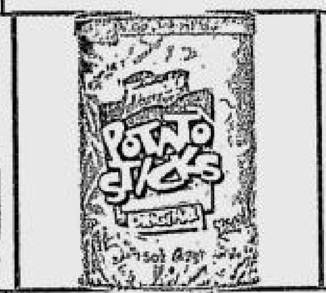
Davao Pomelo
P78.75/kg



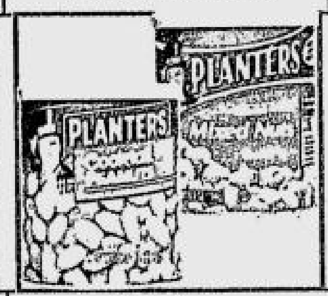
Green Papaya
P16.80/kg

Eggplant
P21.00/kg

Mentos
Mint, Grapes, Dalandan Fresh
3rolls X 37g P39.75/pk
Ice Chewing Gum, Sugar Free,
Peppermint, Orange Mint, Arctic Mint
12.9g P16.95/pk 40g P45.95/pk

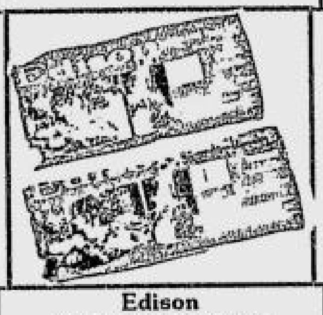


French's
Potato Sticks, Original Flavor
42g P20.50/pk



Planters
Mixed Nuts 184g P130.50/can
Cocktail Peanuts 184g P75.50/can

Edison
Microwave Safe Container
C-750, 5pcs. Rectangular
750ml Capacity P60.95/pk
M-25, 5pcs. Round
625ml Capacity P45.50/pk



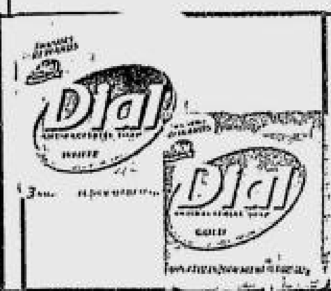
Edison
Cooked Food Plastic Bags
10"x14", 200pcs P250.00/roll
8"x14", 200pcs P210.00/roll
6"x12", 200pcs P139.95/roll

Eveready
Battery Super Heavy Duty
Big Black D, 2's P40.50/pk
Small Black AA, 4's P46.50/pk

Lysol
Disinfectant Spray Original,
Spring Waterfall,
Crisp Linen, Country Scent
170g P115.95/bot

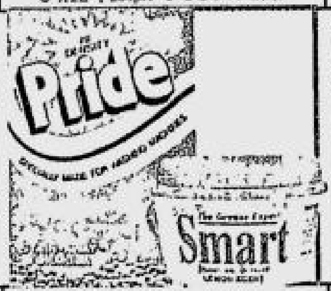
Colgate
Fluoride Toothpaste
Great Regular Flavor
150ml P69.95/tube
100ml P48.10/tube

Bactidol
Oral Antiseptic [illegible] P386.50/bot
Listerine
Antiseptic Mouthwash
Fresh Citrus, Fresh Burst
[illegible] P288.50/[illegible]



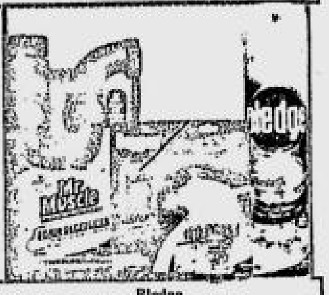
Dial
Antibacterial Soap
Gold, White 3's
382g P113.50/pk

Johnson's
Baby Milk Bath w/ Pump [illegible] P142.25/bot
Carefree
Pantyliners Super Dry
Breathable Shower Fresh Scent
[illegible] P35.95/pk



Pride
Washing Machine Detergent Powder,
All-Purpose Detergent Powder
150g P62.75/pk
Smart
Dishwashing Detergent
Lemon Scented [illegible] P31.25/[illegible]

Del
Fabric Softener Summer Fresh Yellow
1lt P112.00/[illegible] 450ml P56.30/bot
240ml P25.75/bot [illegible] P15.50/pk
Fabric Softener Fresh Blue,
Blossom Fresh Pink, Spring Fresh Green
1lt P112.00/[illegible]



Pledge
Furniture Polish, Lem[illegible] P150.90/bot
Mr. Muscle
Drain Declogger [illegible] P69.60/bot
Mold & Mildew [illegible]
Regular [illegible] P89.10/bot
Baygon
[illegible] P162.90/[illegible]

[illegible] • Theater Drive cor. [illegible]
• Greenhills Shopping Center • Tels. 721-0592; 721-1717 • Store Hours: 8:30 am - 8:00 pm Cash&Carry Supermarket [illegible]

LIFESTYLE

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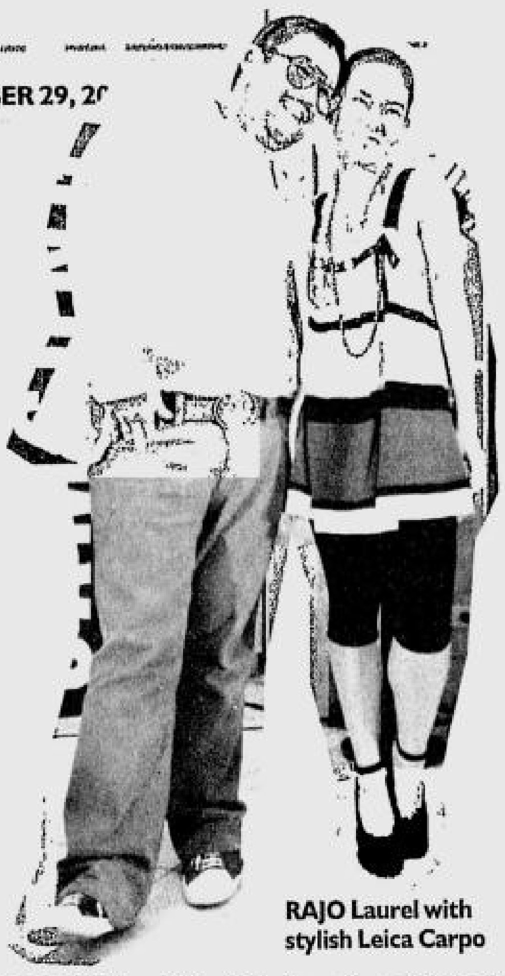
FASHION

Designers back-to-back-to-back!



RAJO Laurel with stylish Leica Carpo

FASHION BUZZ

MANILA'S TOP DESIGNers are gearing up for a fashion showdown via Metro Magazine's yearly Metrowear event.

Now on its fourth year, Metrowear consists of four fashion shows from October to November, featuring holiday collections from 11 designers and culminating in a gala event in December.

The last time Manila enjoyed a month-long series of shows was during the Fashion Watch Series produced by the late Richard Tann in the late '90s. The Metrowear Series 2007 is a welcome treat for avid fashion-watchers.

Sought-after designers Rhett Eala, Rajo Laurel and Lulu Tan Gan outdo one another when they kick off the series on Oct. 4 at the Loft in Rockwell.

On Oct. 9, watch out for the fashion encounter between Dennis Lustico, Jun Escario and Katrina Goulbourn.

Young A-listers Joey Samson and Ivarluski Aseron go head-to-head with industry favorites Tonichi Nocom and Randy Ortiz on Oct. 23.

To cap off the series, fashion star Cesar Gaupo goes solo with his new must-have collection on Nov. 8.

INQUIRER Fashion will give a blow-by-blow reportage of the fashion spectacle.

DESIGNERS/ 13

RANDY Ortiz with good friend and muse Tweetie de Leon-Gonzalez

DESIGNER Jun Escario poses with willowy Tabatha Luczay

THELMA San Juan, Rajo Laurel, Joey Samson, Ivar Aseron, Tonichi Nocom, Jun Escario, Dennis Lustico, Rhett Eala and ABS-CBN Publishing president Ernie Lopez. Seated: Isha Andaya for Lulu Tan Gan, Randy Ortiz and Katrina Goulbourn

LISTERINE MISSION TO MOUTH

ON WITH THE MISSION

[illegible] been setting forth with a mission to help people protect their mouths from germs. Now, the people are learning to fight back. They are now starting to win their own battles…

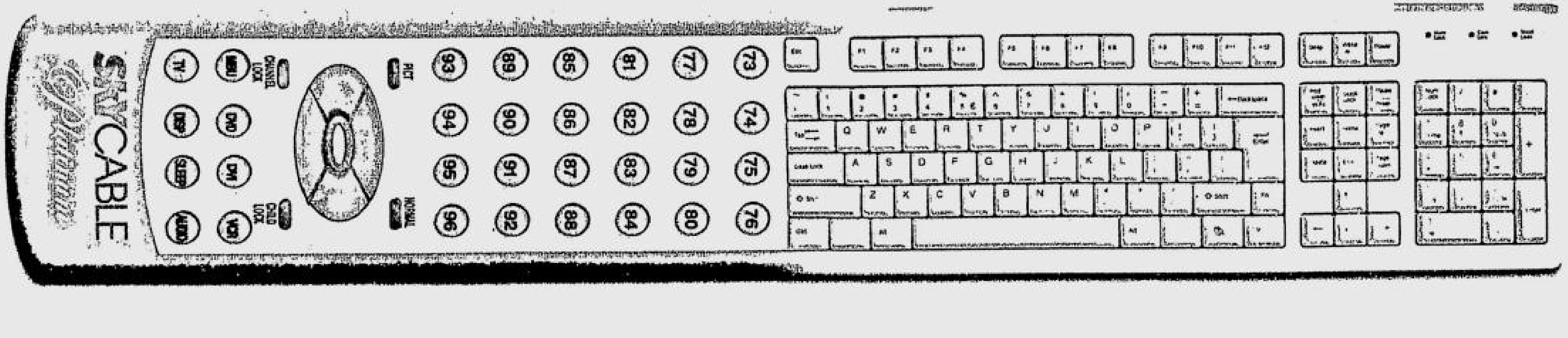
Indeed, everyone's mouth is a battlefield and if we don't stop these germs from invading our mouths, our gums will bleed, our breath will stink and all our teeth will fall out. Commonly, these mouth germs will cause tooth decay and gingivitis, both easily triggered by bacteria found in Plaque. Plaque can be found on our teeth, gums and all over our mouth. If not removed, it may bring about cavities and inflammation, ultimately causing the destruction of tissues, loosening of tooth attachment and bone loss.[1]

[illegible] Plaque is naturally present in the mouth and is usually harmless. However, it should not be left unchecked. If not addressed with a proper dental hygiene, it will successfully lurk inside the mouth to prepare for an attack.[2]

But winning against mouth germs is no hard task if we continue the mission of Team Listerine. With a well-balanced diet, our immune system will become a stronger armor against these germs.[3] We are also equipped with skills such as brushing with toothpaste and flossing, which are both effective in removing bacteria and plaque. However, these do not reach the secluded areas in our mouth where bacteria usually hide. This is why Team Listerine has unleashed the [illegible] secret weapon against these mouth germs [illegible] the Listerine Antiseptic Mouthwash. It has been proven to give 24 hours of protection when rinsed twice daily for 30 seconds, reducing plaque by 52% and gingivitis by 21%.[4]

With the help of Team Listerine, the people are now fully equipped for their own battles… but there is still a war to win. It is now our turn to tell the rest of the country that only by rinsing with Listerine Antiseptic Mouthwash after brushing can we wipe out mouth germs effectively.

1 Dental Products Training Program, Module 2
2 "The Check-up that can save your life", Reader's Digest
3 Dental Products Training Program, Module 3
4 Pan P, Barnett ML, Coelho J, Brogdon C, Finnegan MB, Determination of the in situ bactericidal activity of an essential oil mouthrinse using a vital stain method.



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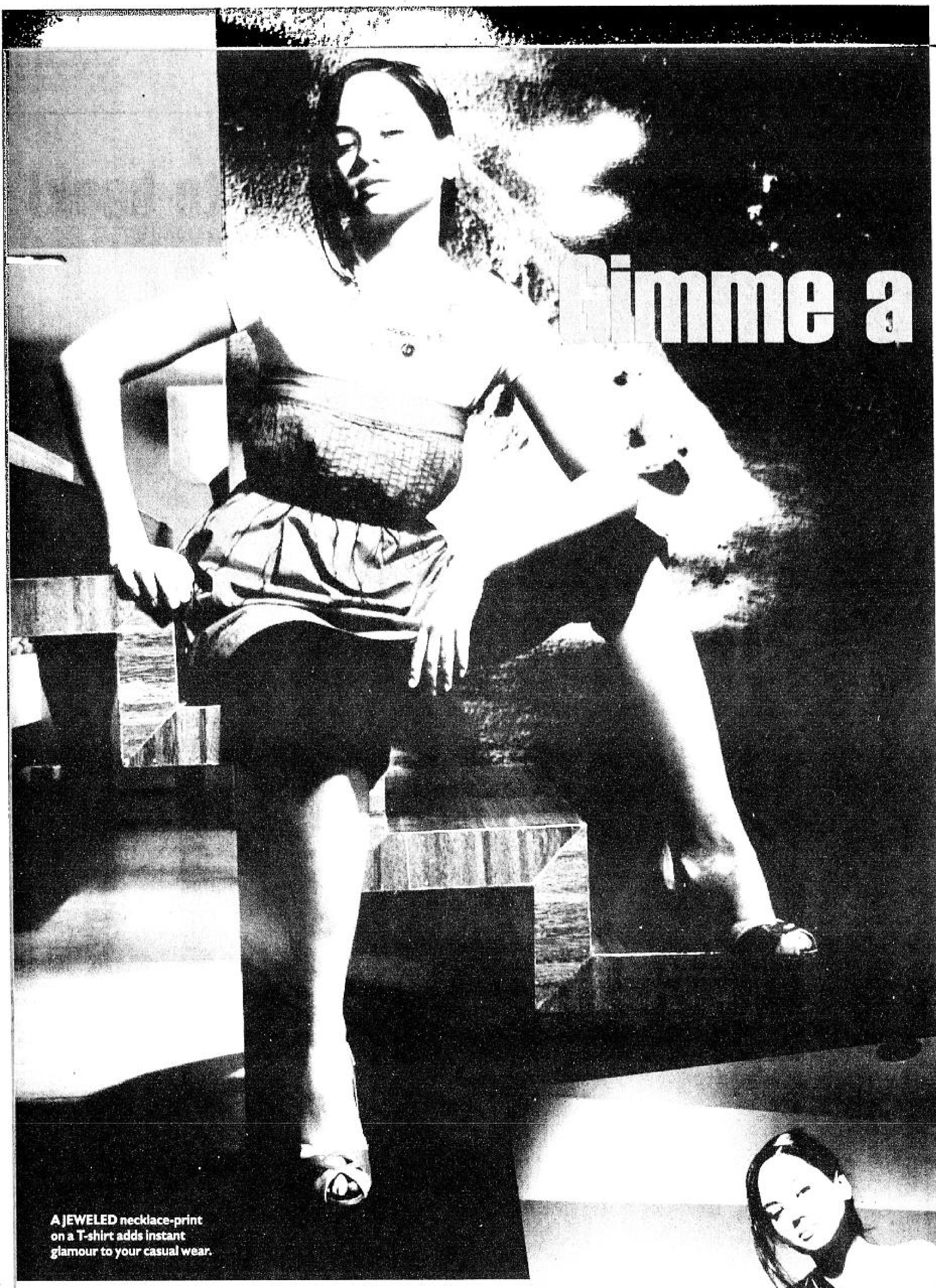
Gimme a T!



A JEWELED necklace-print on a T-shirt adds instant glamour to your casual wear.

From page 14

Madonna professed her love for Britney by wearing a T-shirt of the younger pop princess—and even wore a shirt with Britney's photo to bed!

Talk about a PR coup for the once lowly T!

Beyond the bold prints, the T-shirt glam-bition mission has been reinforced with pretty details and trimmings. The Kashieca line of T-shirts featured here are played up with faux accessories such as stenciled necklaces, sewn beads, pleats and chain details. It's all about revolutionizing a fashion staple by showcasing its character and versatility.

And that's just what's so fierce about the T. You can never underestimate its chic potential, especially when you exalt it with a style all your own!

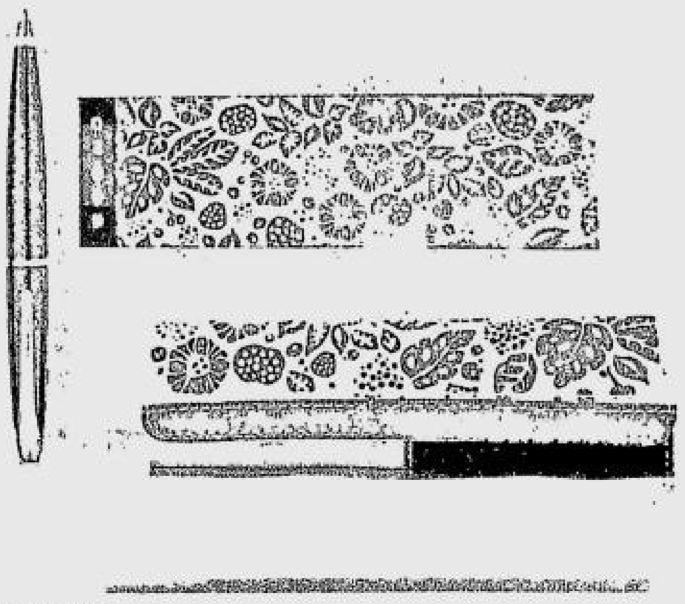
E-mail the author at jfashion@inquirer.com.ph

Photography Dix
Assisted by Migz Castro
Styling Kat Cruz for Big On Style
(e-mail thebigonstyle@gmail.com)
Makeup Ron Garrido for Mac
using the A Muse Collection
Hair Merlyn Padagas
Model Lani Pellinger
of W Talent Management
Clothes Kashieca
Shoes Pretty Fit
Shot on location at The Residences
at Greenbelt Showroom
CALL 728 [illegible]
EMAIL ASK@AYALALANDPREMIER.COM
OR VISIT WWW.AYALALANDPREMIER.COM
NEW MODEL UNITS ARE AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING
AT [illegible] GREENBELT 5

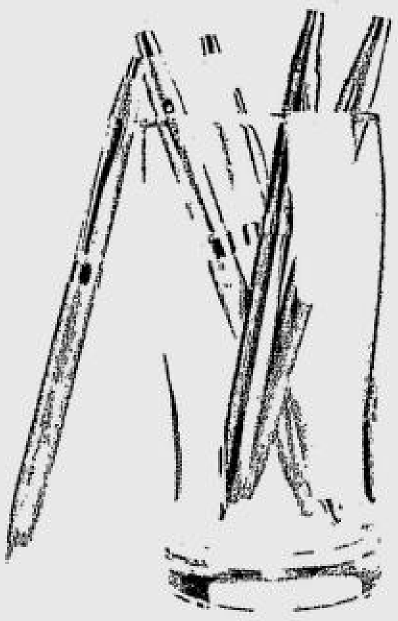
GIVE your basic black ensemble a boost with this season's bold striped cotton shirt.

AN OVERSIZED tee can double as a dress

STORE For All Seasons at Rustan's Makati



DESIGNER doodle



CROSS pens by Rafe Totengco

Designers back-to-back-to-back!

From page 11

Fashion in your hands

The next great fashion accessory could be inside your bag—a splash of the season's hottest colors on especially designed Cross pens.

Flirty colors, as well as playful tropical prints created by hot Filipino handbag designer Rafe Totengco, put the spotlight on the latest Cross pens, along with shimmery new pens reminiscent of glowing makeup shades.

Increase your style quotient with Cross.

The Bahia Century II, ATX Bahia, the Classic Century Lumina, Century II are available at Men's World Glorietta, Rustan's Makati, Shangri-la and Harrison Plaza and at National Bookstore in Megamall, Glorietta, Greenbelt 1, Shangri-la Plaza Mall, Market! Market!, Metro Ayala Cebu and SM North Edsa.

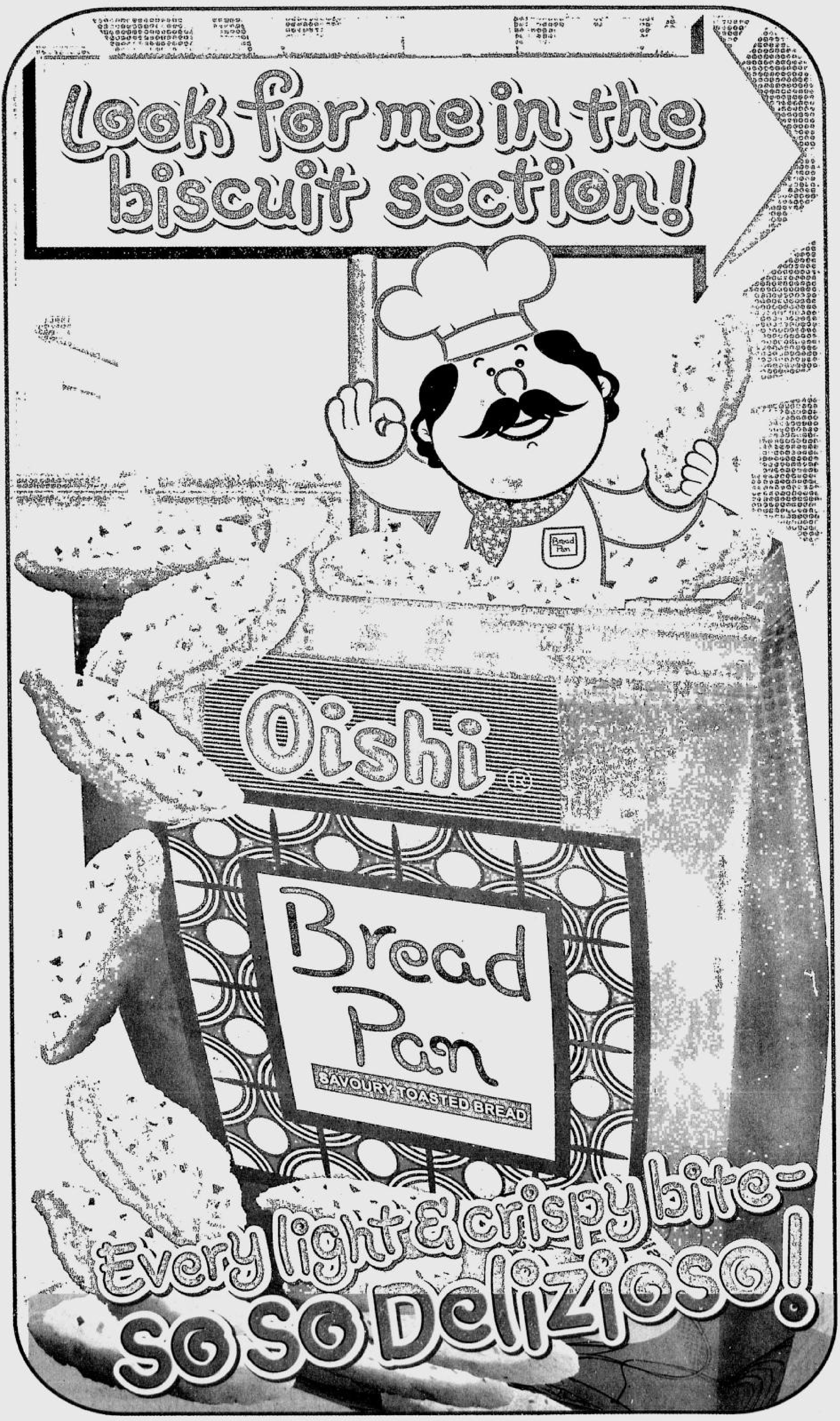
Cross Pens are exclusively distributed by Newtrends International Corporation.

Mich's season

Mich Dulce and Cecile Zamora's Store For All Seasons opens its second branch on the second floor of Rustan's Makati. It offers chain-printed tunics, draped tank tops, ruffled dresses and show pieces by Mich Dulce. For made-to-order pieces, call 09178951743.

ANIMAL couture

AVANT gorgeous


Look for me in the biscuit section!
Bread Pan
Oishi®
Bread Pan
SAVOURY TOASTED BREAD
Every light & crispy bite–
So So Delizioso!

PEARL-SEWN accessories on a T-shirt are a busy woman's best bet.

Gimme a T!

Never underestimate its chic potential, especially when you exalt it with a style all your own

THE BASIC T-SHIRT IS EXPEriencing a style renaissance these days. In fact, it's hardly touted as "the ordinary T" anymore. Gone are the days of that ho-hum Fruit Of The Loom closet rag.

Today, the T-shirt is a work of art, a promotional canvas, even a political mouthpiece. It's the ultimate textile chameleon. That "T" could very well stand for "transformation," with the endless options one can do to glam it up.

The basic tee has its own "coming out" story. Just as the bra and boxer shorts have evolved from never-seen underwear to outerwear meant to be flaunted, the T-shirt also started out in hiding. It was first used as the basic underwear of European laborers. Then in World War I, it came to the US when American soldiers took note of the light cotton undershirts that the European soldiers were wearing.

Fast forward to World War II. The T-shirt became the standard underwear for the US Army and Navy. It was not much of a debate—the cotton comfort was the key, especially in warm weather, and it soon got its name from its basic shape (duh!).

You could say that the American soldiers were the very first male models to bring this fashion staple to the public eye. In fact, the T-shirt got its first cover on Life magazine in 1942, which showed a photo of a soldier wearing a T-shirt emblazoned with "Air Corps Gunnery School."

But it was still worn as underwear, until Hollywood icons John Wayne and Marlon Brando wore the T-shirt on US national TV, which initially shocked the TV-viewing public. But when James Dean sported a white T-shirt in the film "Rebel Without a Cause" (probably the most famous white tee in Hollywood history), it became equated with quintessential cool. Hollywood had given its stamp of approval, and inevitably, the T-shirt's popularity soared.

The T-shirt has become a perfect canvas for creative artwork, and a highly effective medium for slogans and bold statements. In our own political history, the Edsa revolution *de rigeur* attire was a lemon-yellow Ninoy T-shirt with the hero's profile printed on it.

Che Guevara's profile emblazoned on a T-shirt has evolved from a political statement into an iconic piece. Modern celebs have also given the T that glamorous edge while simultaneously making bold statements.

GIMME/12

Mabuhay!

I'M WITH THE DRUMMER

Jenni Epperson

PLEATS add elegance to a basic cotton shirt.

MOTOROLA
MUSIC TELEVISION
SCHOOL of ROCKMOTO
MOTOROKR
TUNE OUT WITH YOUR FAVOURITE SONGS ON YOUR PHONE
FREE ADMISSION
SMIRNOFF EXPERIENCE
BURN

FINALS PARTY
METROWALK CENTRAL PLAZA
SEPTEMBER 30, 2006 (SATURDAY)
15 UPCOMING BANDS WILL VIE TO BECOME THE NEXT BIG MOTOROCKICON.
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Final Vow	1	Blue Cheese	6	Pasahero	11
The Delinquents	2	Mana	7	Placid	12
Pitik	3	CDMC	8	Timog	13
zutanghon	4	Joint Account	9	Tie Dye Shift	14
ursaminor	5	Sporenee	10	Break the Silence	15

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LIFESTYLE

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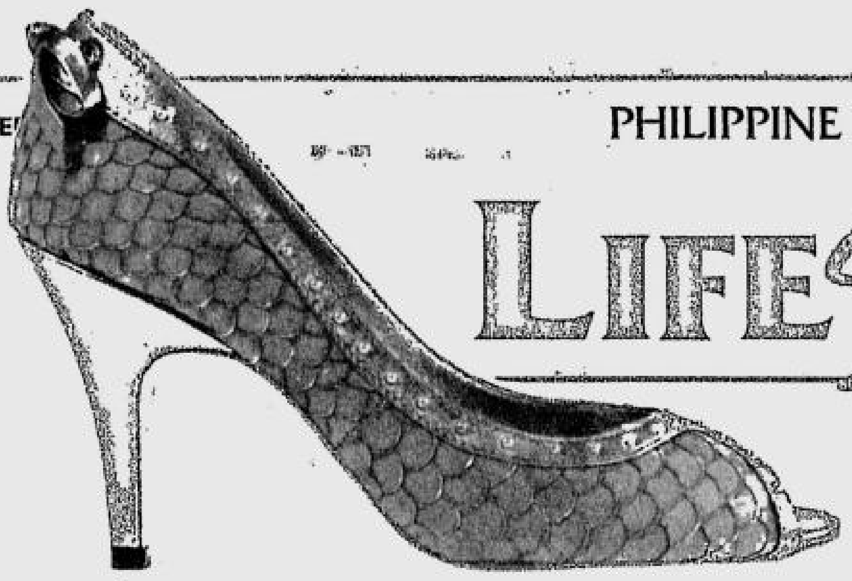
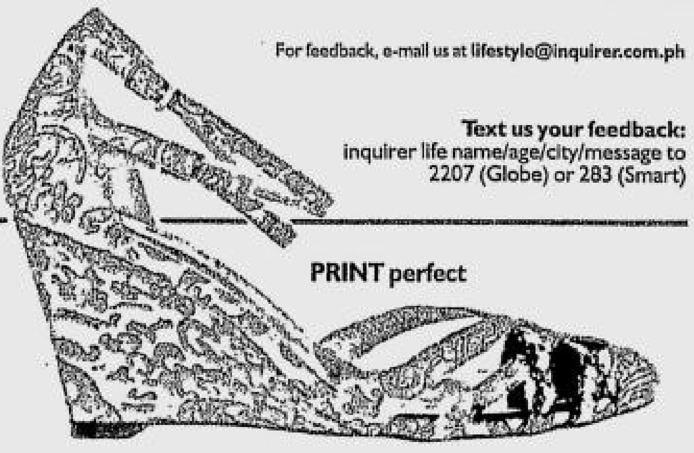


PINK passion

BLANC beauty



PRINT perfect

FASHION

BRAG BOARD

Show-off shoes

BLUE suede shoes.

PURE gilt

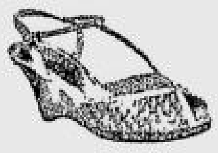
YOU CAN be stylish right down to your tippy-toes with Hot Wind's latest collection. The hip Shanghainese shoe source has the goods to finish off your latest fashion fixations.

Look for of-the-moment platforms to balance out your swinging minis and wedges to wear with your skinny jeans.

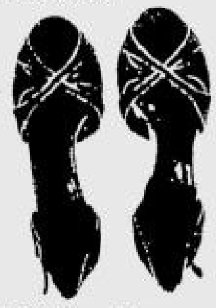
Gold is the color of the year, so walk away with Hot Wind's sexy d'orsays.

Lastly, do a Marie Antoinette by stepping out in brocade peep-toes and let everyone eat cake!

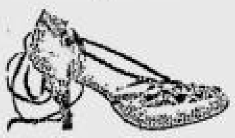
Hot Wind is available at G/F Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati City



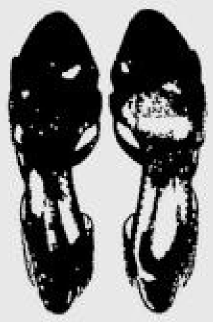
PEEP show



GREEN goddess

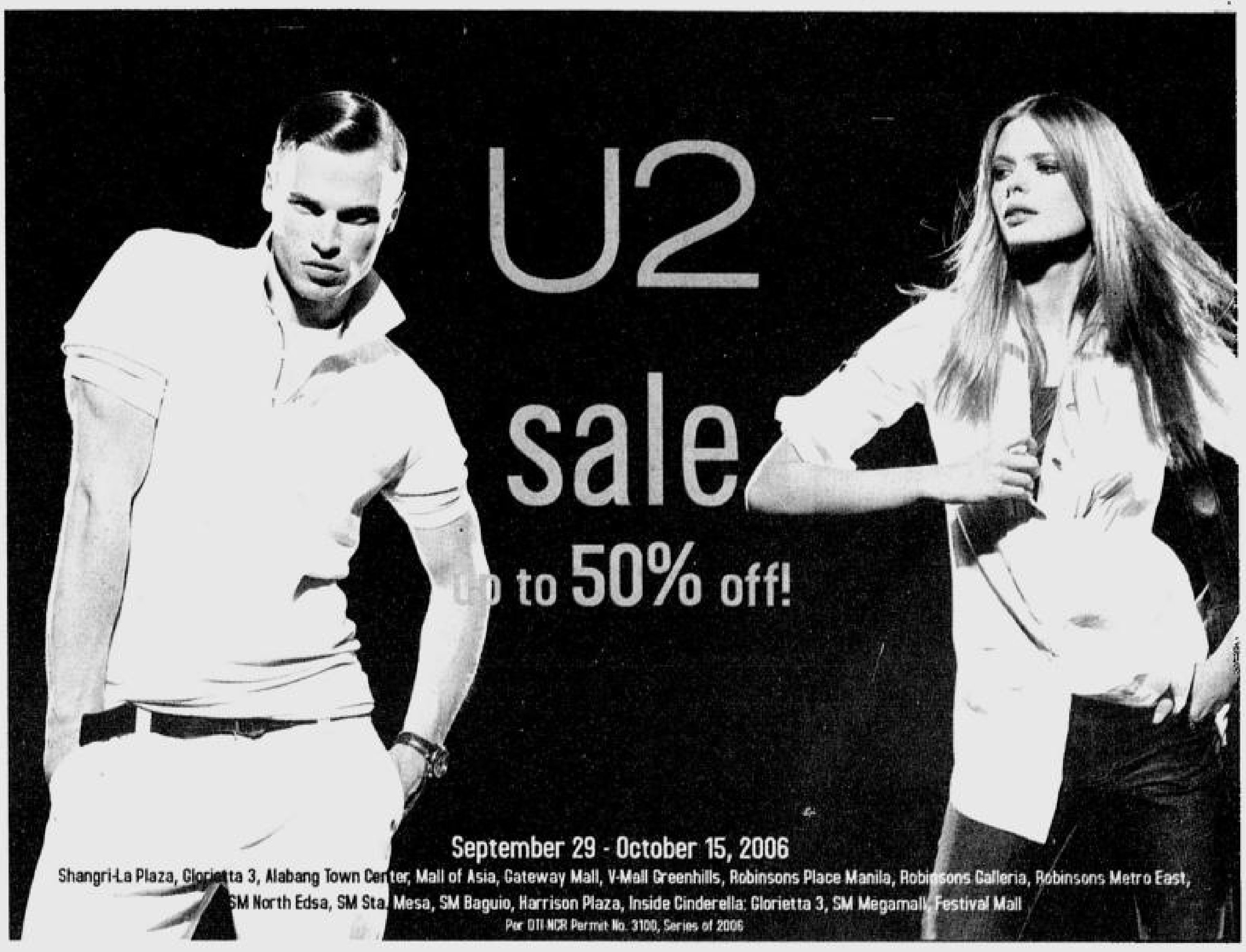


TIE me up



BLACK gold

AMAZING azure



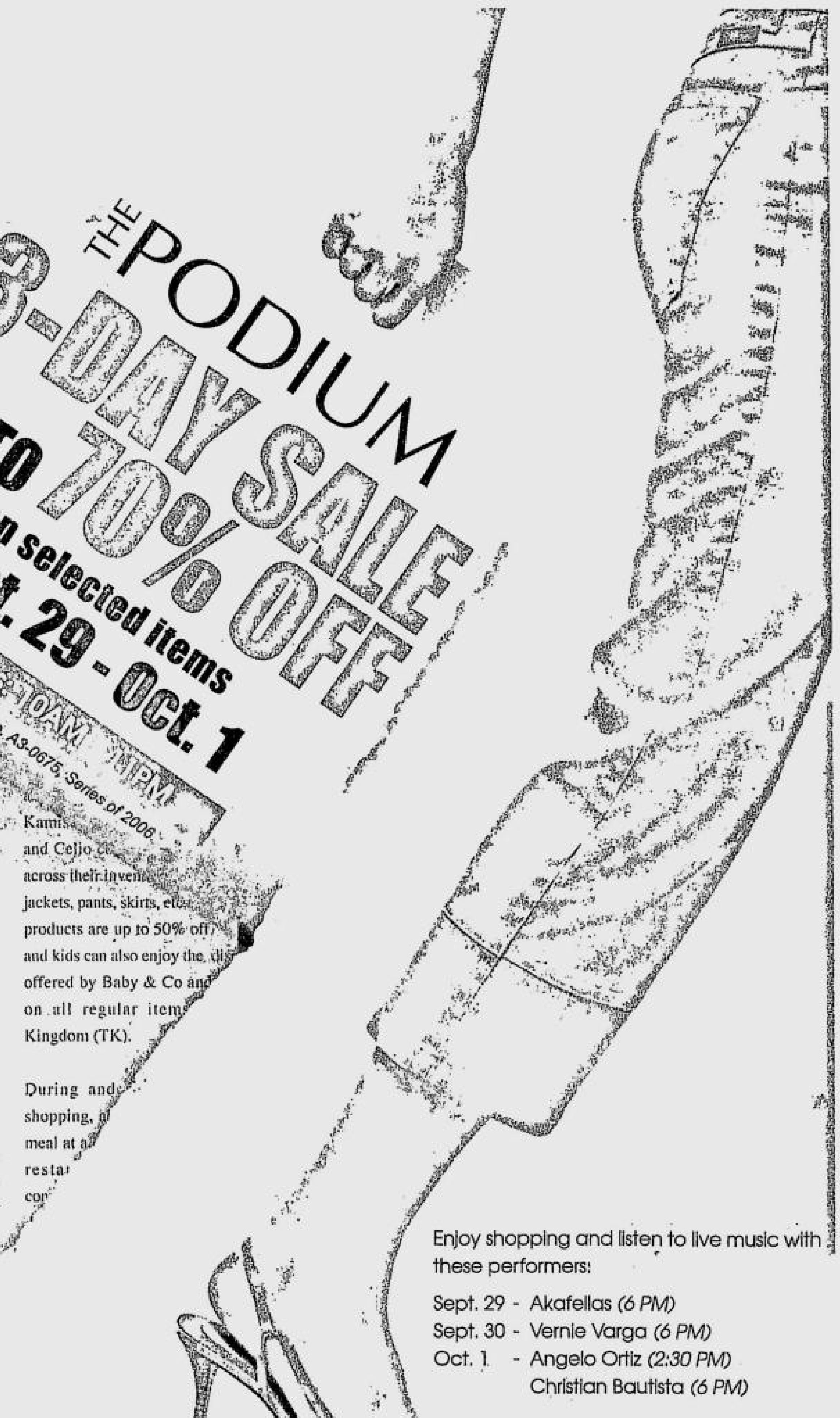
U2 sale

up to 50% off!

September 29 - October 15, 2006

Shangri-La Plaza, Glorietta 3, Alabang Town Center, Mall of Asia, Gateway Mall, V-Mall Greenhills, Robinsons Place Manila, Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Metro East, SM North Edsa, SM Sta. Mesa, SM Baguio, Harrison Plaza, Inside Cinderella: Glorietta 3, SM Megamall, Festival Mall

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3100, Series of 2006



THE PODIUM

3-DAY SALE

UP TO 70% OFF

on selected items

Sept. 29 - Oct. 1

Mall hours: 10AM - 11PM

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-0675, Series of 2006

PO
SALE

It is that time of the year
all roads lead to The Podium be
the mall's **3-DAY SALE** is on! From
September 29 to October 1, 2006, 10am to 11pm, an array of items from clothing apparel, women's accessories, footwear, sports gear, etc.; food and beverages; services and a whole lot more will be offered to shoppers at up to **70%-OFF** on selected items.

The Podium's host of shops, stores, restaurants, and service outlets not only have the best bargains in town but ensure customers of an unforgettable shopping experience during the sale. For the sports afficionado, Nike Park and Speedo are offering up to 50% off on a number of sportswear items and 10% off on equipment and accessories. Premie
label brands such as Sisley offer 6
off on sweaters, t-shirts, belts; Na
30% off on knitted shirts and
Arrow sports and classic t-s
at 50% off while Braun Buff
sweaters and t-shirts are
ppers who prefer th
and ac

Kamis
and Celjo c
across their inven
jackets, pants, skirts, etc
products are up to 50% off
and kids can also enjoy the di
offered by Baby & Co and
on all regular item
Kingdom (TK).

During and
shopping,
meal at a
resta
co

Enjoy shopping and listen to live music with these performers:

Sept. 29 - Akafellas *(6 PM)*
Sept. 30 - Vernie Varga *(6 PM)*
Oct. 1 - Angelo Ortiz *(2:30 PM)*
Christian Bautista *(6 PM)*

Free Wi-Fi Access Powered by PhilCom

WAVE 89.1

Jam 88.3 your kind of mix

etc ENTERTAINMENT CENTRAL

THE PODIUM
your place | your pace

Spend Saturday with Sultry Vernie Varga & a Splendid Sale at The Podium

Stunning beauty Vernie Varga graces the stage at The Podium this Saturday, September 30, 2006. As she sings unforgettable broadway classics, shop till you drop at the mall's ongoing 3-day sale.

From September 29 to October 1, 2006, 10am to 11pm, hunt for great finds at the mall's exciting shops: For the sports enthusiasts, Nike Park and Speedo offer up to 50% off on sportswear items and 10% off on equipment and accessories. Top of the line labels such as Sisley offers 60% off on sweaters, t-shirts, belts; Nautica 30% off on knitted shirts and pants; Arrow 50% off on sports and classic t-shirts; Braun Buffel 40% off on jackets, sweaters and t-shirts and Bayo, Bench, Kamiseta, BYSI, Landes, Topman, and Celio cut a whopping 50% off across their apparel prices.

For the shoe lover, Dexter offers up to 80% off; G.H. Bass 30% off and Lacoste up to 50% off in ladies and mens shoes.

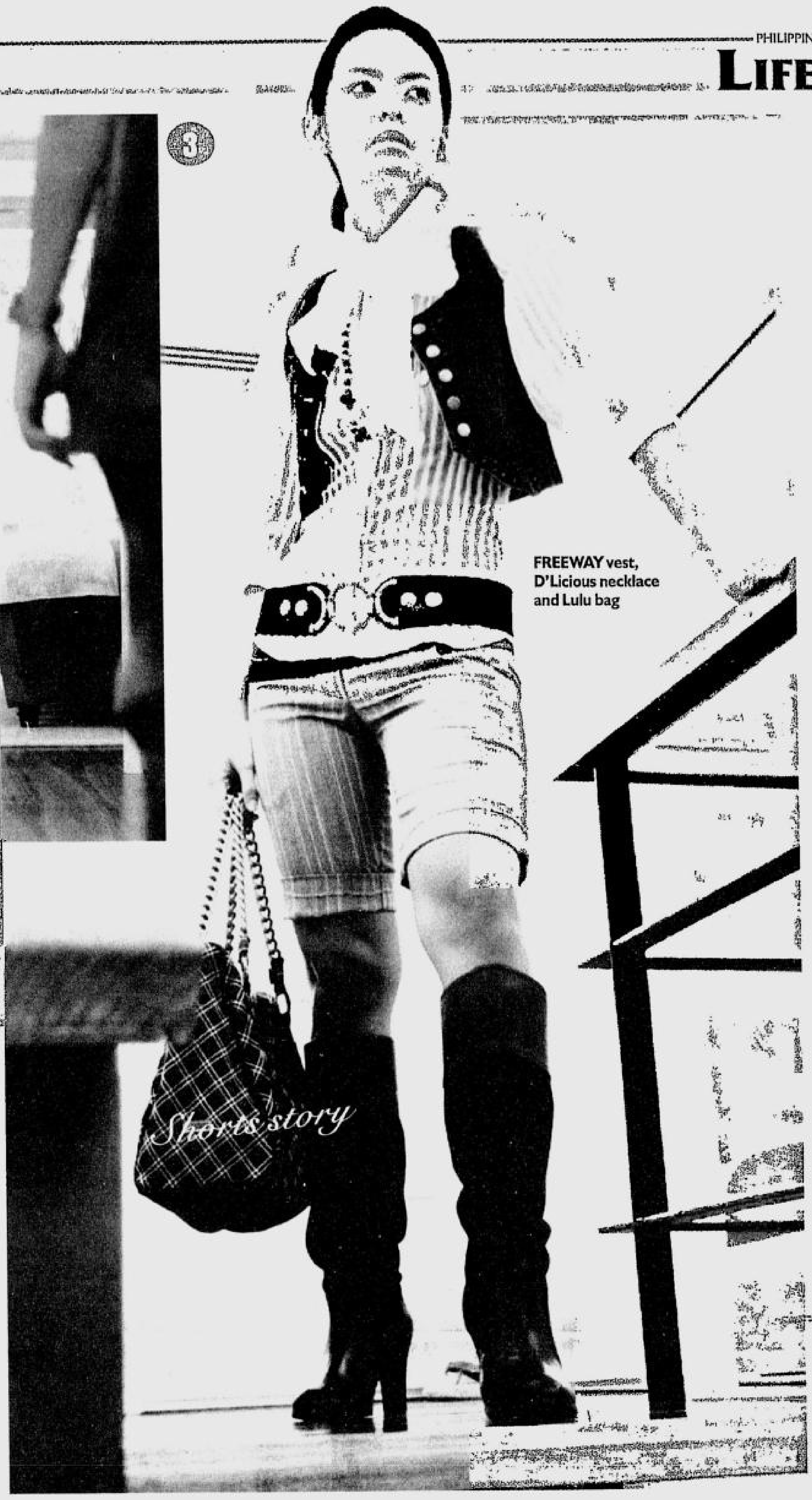
For the fashionista who likes to accessorize, Girbaud bags are at 10-20% off and Samsonite luggages are at 10% off.

For mommies and kids, discounts are up for grabs at Baby & Co. and all regular items at Toy Kingdom are at 10% off.

No doubt, it's going to be a spectacular Saturday at The Podium, your place, your pace!

FOLDED & Hung shorts; Sinequanone tank top, available at Rustan's

ZARA blouse, belt and boots



FREEWAY vest, D'Licious necklace and Lulu bag

Lay it on thick

Piling on doesn't have to mean shapeless

By Cheche V. Moral

UNLESS YOU'RE HEADED to cooler climes for the holiday months ahead, there's just no way you can realistically pull off the sort of layered looks suggested by the fall runways—bulky cable knits, legwarmers, four layers of tops underneath a coat.

No way, not in this erratic tropical temperature that, even with incessant rainfall, hardly ever drops below 24°C.

But hold off on that plane-ticket purchase for now. If those knee-high boots are themselves going David Blaine from Zara's shelves, we assure you there's a way to skirt around this too-hot, too-bulky impasse.

Our resident stylist Kat Cruz put together five looks to guide you into adopting the layered trend without combusting into fashion oblivion. She also worked some French twist into these looks—a double-breasted military-style coat, frilly jabot tops, an Empire-waist Josephine dress—so that you're hitting two trends with a single round from Napoleon's musket.

The trick is to pile on delicate camisoles or tank tops with gauzy blouses that won't overpower your fragile frame, because even as this look somehow means chucking all traces of overt sexiness, still you don't want to end up looking like an overstuffed mummy.

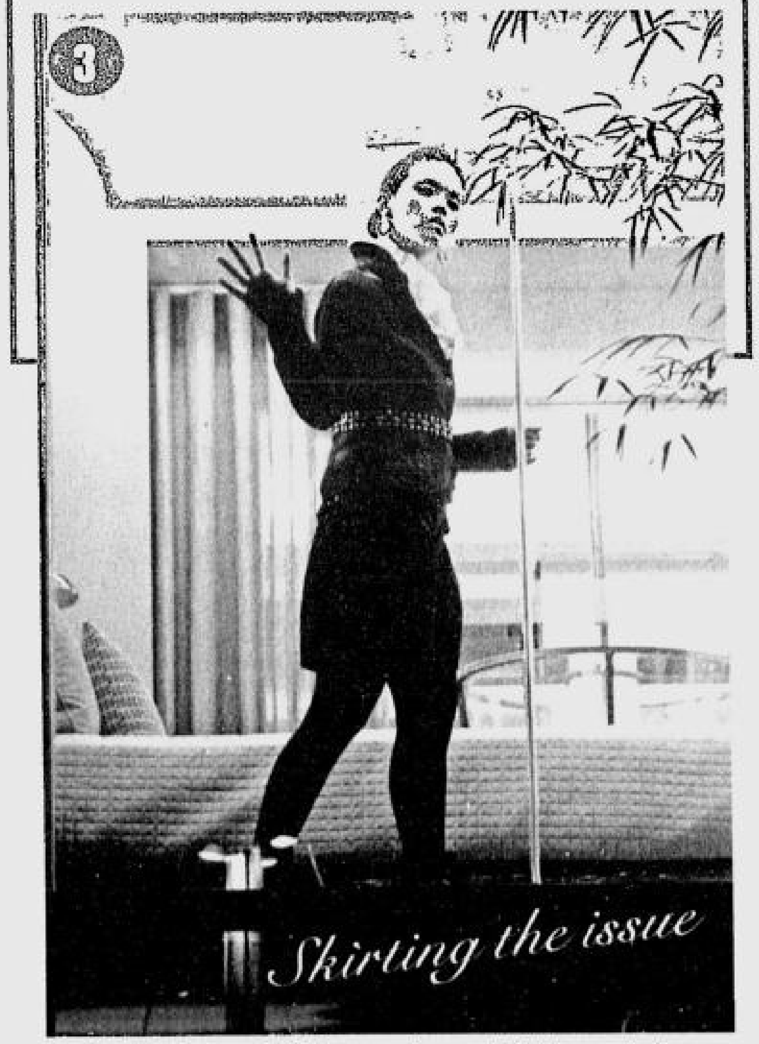
Piling on doesn't have to mean shapeless; a belt to cinch your waist would work well to suggest a nice silhouette underneath all those layers.

Take note that each stage of dressing for each of these looks can stand on their own—from the basic shorts and a cami, to the jeans-tee-and-boots combo.

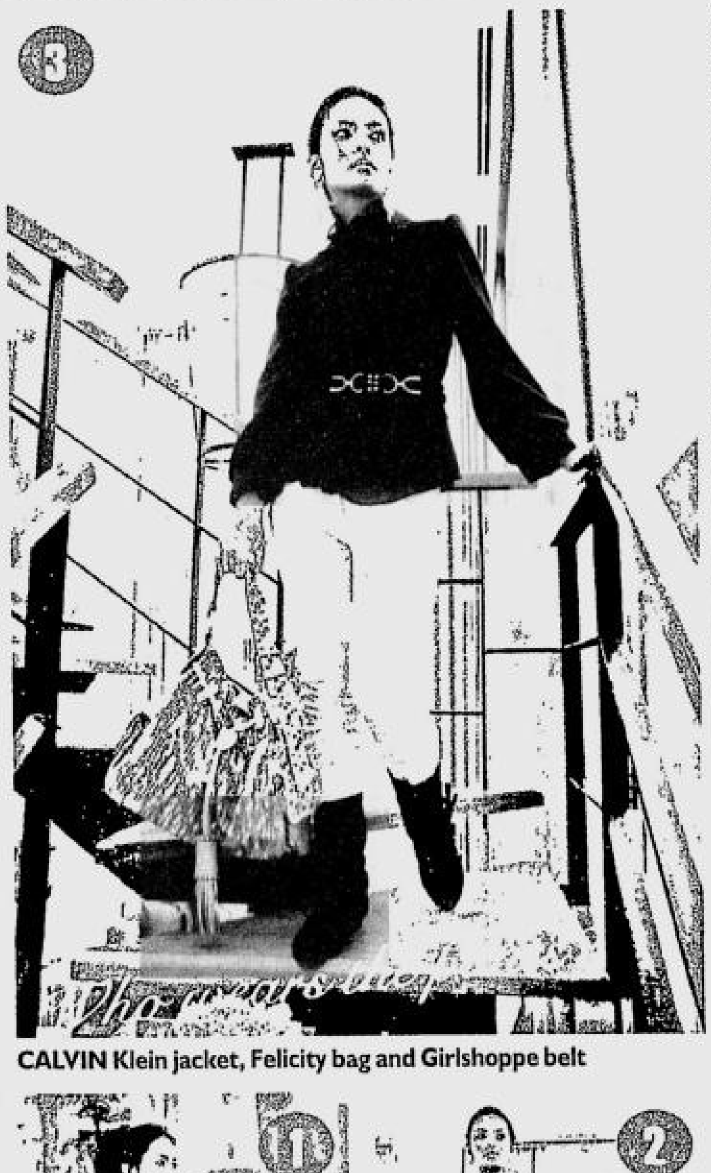
This illustrates that even as you peel off layer after layer (considering the unpredictable weather), you wouldn't feel, well, undressed. It's also to show just what sort of pieces you can add on top of your most basic getups to be able to jump in on this layering bandwagon.

ATELIER Debbie Co blouse; Firma ring; tights, stylist's own

FCUK skirt and Aerosoles boots, both available at Rustan's



DKNY Jeans jacket, D'Licious earrings and Girlshoppe belt



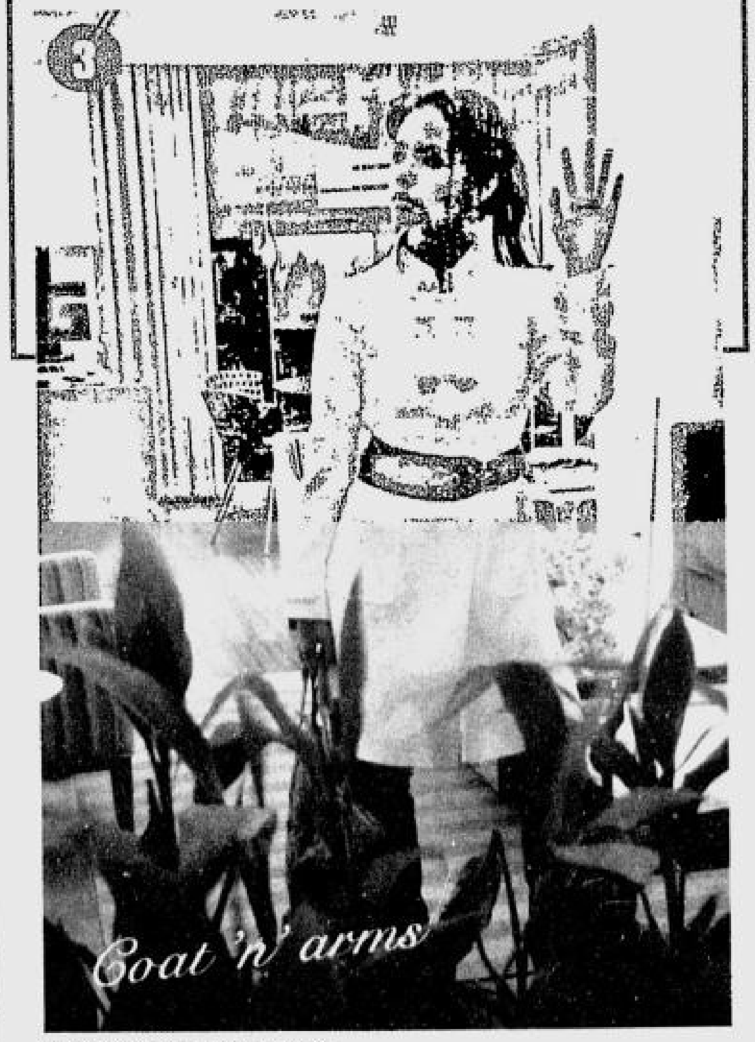
CALVIN Klein jacket, Felicity bag and Girlshoppe belt

FCUK pants and camisole, available at Rustan's

CALVIN Klein blouse, Felicity earrings and Rusty Lopez boots

SOLO T-shirt; Moto jeans, available at Topshop; Aerosoles boots, available at Rustan's

MAXSTUDIO.COM blouse, Kenneth Cole Reaction earrings and Tint bag



ZARA trench coat and belt

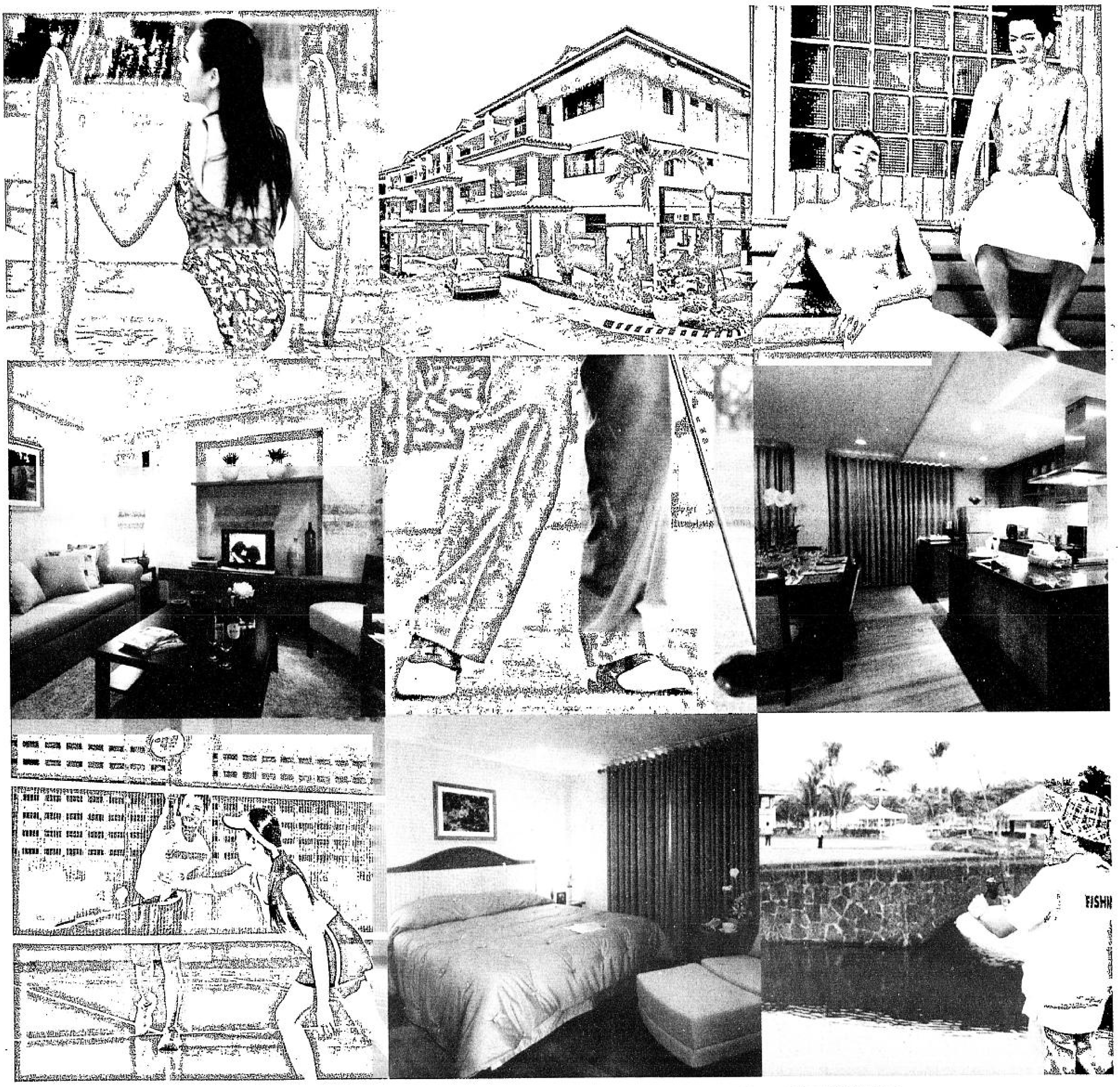
MAXSTUDIO.COM dress and Tint shoes

MAXSTUDIO.COM sweater and Felicity earrings

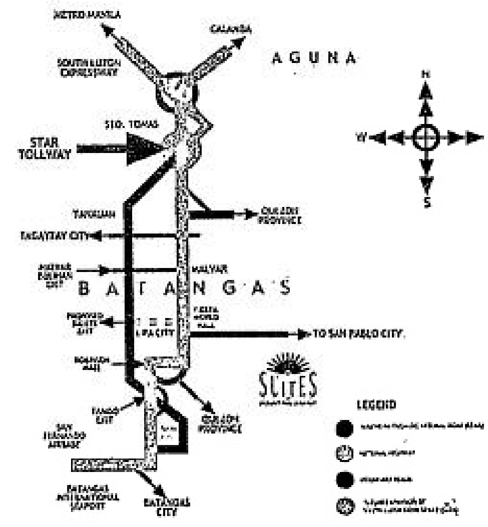
③

FOLDED & Hung bag and Girlshoppe belt

Photography Dix
Assisted by Migz Castro
Styling Kat Cruz
for Big On Style
(thebigonstyle@gmail.com)
Hair and makeup
Benjie Angeles
Model Patricia Francisco
of W Talent Management
Shot on location
at The Glass House Model Unit
of One Rockwell
(tel. 8906888 or log on to
www.e-rockwell.com)



SUITE ATTRACTIONS LIKE NO OTHER.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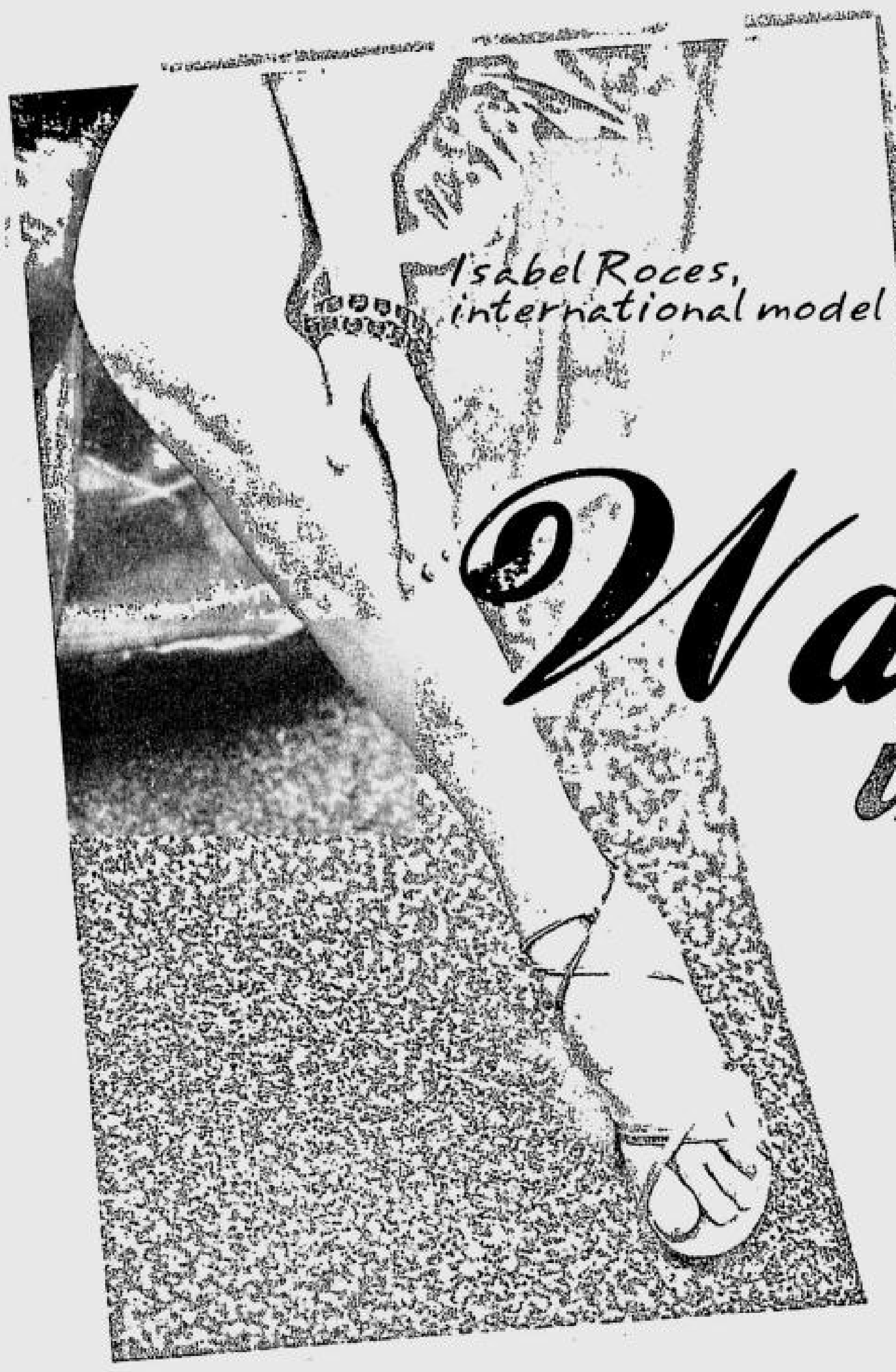

Isabel Roces, international model

Cristina Ansaldo, bag designer

By Ria Francisco-Prieto

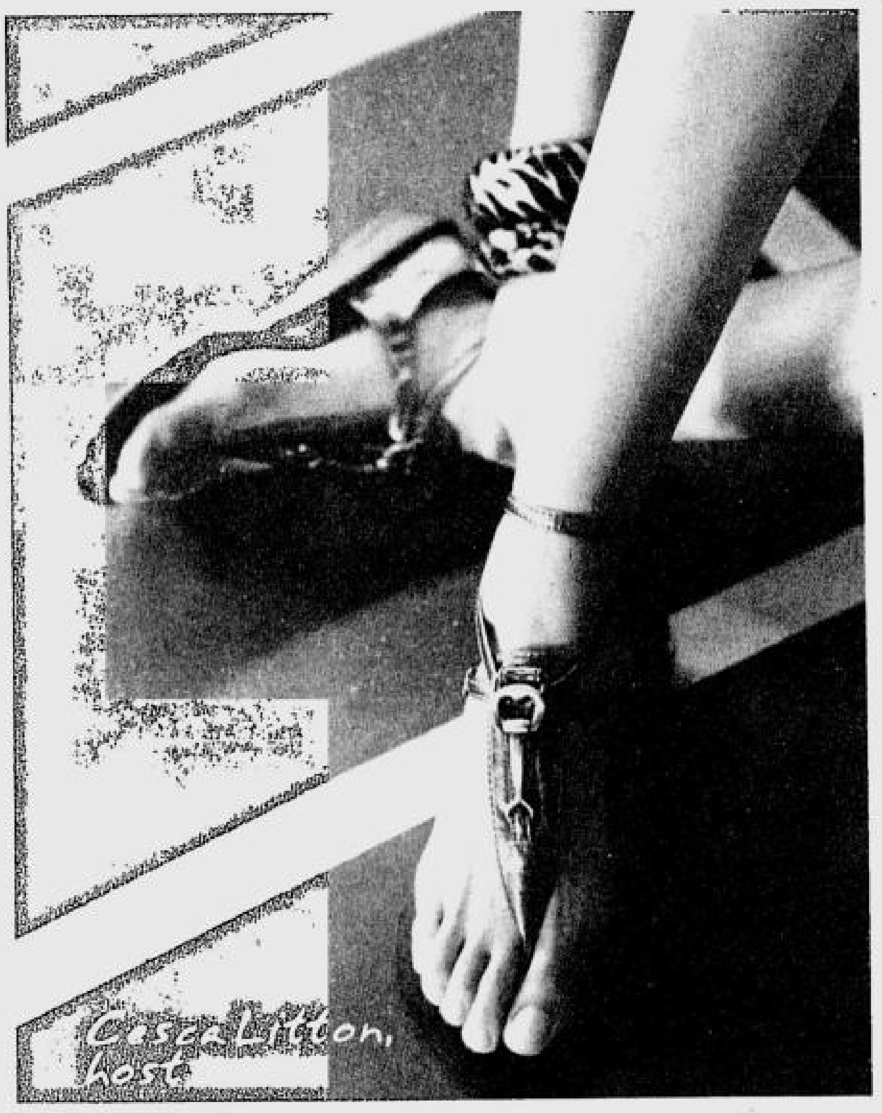
THERE ARE SO MANY things a girl wants in her closet. And there are so many outfits and so many variations of shoe styles for a girl to choose from.

After watching the movie "The Devil Wears Prada," I don't mind being called a devil as long as I can wear all those fab outfits and put my feet on all those shoes.

But reality sets in and it hits hard soon enough. Everything costs something, and with all the things I want to have, I would only feel bad if I didn't start being smarter about what I purchased.

Luckily, not everything that is fashionable equates to something that costs an arm and a leg. I was pleasantly surprised when I checked out Mendrez in Glorietta and found all the must-have styles for every girl who would want to update her outfits!

For less than a grand, I brought home a pair of flat beaded thongs that are so comfortable yet stylish. Not only did it make me feel good, I also felt smart about my purchase.


Cesca Litton, host

My next agenda is to take my husband there on our free time to pick out some work shoes.

Here are others who have found their own treasures in Mendrez:

Marta Luque-Araneta

Occupation: Mother

Interests: Photography, animals, graphic design, and children

What made you like your sandals? The color, style and comfort.

Flats or heels? Flats during the day so I can easily chase my kids, heels when I'm out at night.

Isabel Roces

Occupation: International model

Interests: Yoga

What do you look for in shoes? I need a lot of stilettos, especially for the catwalk. So they have to be comfortable to wear and stylishly up to date.

Flats or heels? Flats. Heels remind me too much of work.

Cesca Litton

Occupation: Solar Sports host

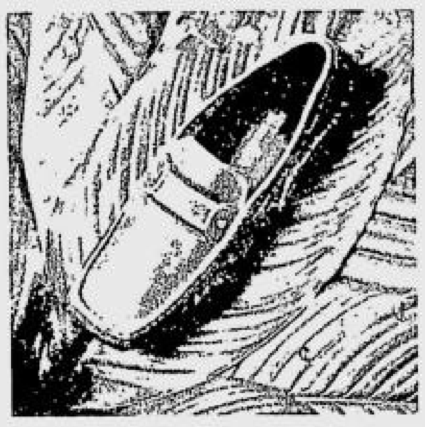
Interests: Animal lover crushed by the passing of Steve Irwin, and sports fan affected by Schumi's retirement. Theater buff who sings to the soundtracks of "Les Mis," "Phantom" and "Miss Saigon" in her car, and adventure seeker who runs amok on the soccer field or wherever, trying out whatever new sport will take her. Music lover, book lover, food lover, movie lover all rolled into one feisty package.

Flats or heels? Hosting Solar Sports Desk and events entails wearing heels. So if I'm just having a lazy day, I prefer to wear flats, and it gives my feet (and back) a break.

Cristina Ansaldo

Occupation: Bag designer/mother of two

Interests: Spending time in the company of family and friends and goofing around with my two crazy kids.



Shoes are... Contrary to the popular cliché, shoes are a woman's best friend. There isn't a woman I know who isn't in a love affair with them. It's definitely a guiltless pleasure. One can never be too rich, too thin, or have too many shoes!

Flats or heels? Flats when you are feeling casual, and heels when you want to vamp it up!

Barbi Chan

Occupation: Makeup artist

Interest: Boxing and making women beautiful!

What made you pick that particular shoe? The color of the shoes caught my eyes. I love dabbling with colors when doing makeup, and for me, the crazier the color the better. I've never seen green shoes that I could actually sport. It's not my typical color pick when it comes to shoes, but life is too short and I should live it to the fullest. So I chose them. Besides, I believe in the motto "it's better to have tried than not to have tried at all!"

Flats or heels? I love wearing heels because they make me feel sexy and they elongate my legs, but I also want something comfortable. I'm past the stage where I would forgo comfort for vanity. Now it's the other way around. The wedge is my addiction right now since I can wear it to go out and also while working. It's fashionable and practical at the same time.

Trish Chua

Occupation: Fashion editor for Metro and Metro Weddings

Interests: Traveling, dogs, makeup, and fashion!

What shoe should every girl have in her closet? Every girl should have at least one pair of pumps, platforms, wedges, stilettos, sandals, mules, gladiator sandals, ballet flats, and thong sandals of different colors to be prepared for any occasion.

Flats or heels? I'm a stiletto girl. I honestly can't live without my heels, but I can't do without flats either. I need them to give my feet and legs a breather once in a while. Just a tip: When choosing flats, make sure to get a style and color that flatter your feet. Certain styles can lengthen legs and make your toes look prettier. Never compromise on style when decorating your feet.

Gino dela Peña

Occupation: Model

Interests: Soccer

What are the top priorities when shopping for shoes?. Style and comfort.

Do you prefer flats or heels on girls? Hmmm... Actually, I like girls wearing heels. I think it makes them look really hot and sexy. But when a girl I'm dating is taller then me, I would prefer if she wore flats.

Mendrez is available at SM, Glorietta, Market! Market!, Alimall, Gotesco and Isetan

Barbi Chan, makeup artist

Gino dela Peña, model

Trish Chua, fashion editor

ENTERTAINMENT

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MATT Damon slugs it out with Leonardo DiCaprio

A New York Sunday with 'The Departed' cast and director

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—"MAXI" FINALLY COMES TO LA. "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros (The Blossoming of Maximo Oliveros)," the Philippines' entry to the coming Oscar best foreign language film race, opens today, Friday, Sept. 29, at the Regent Showcase (614 N. La Brea Ave.).

The award-winning film about a pre-teen

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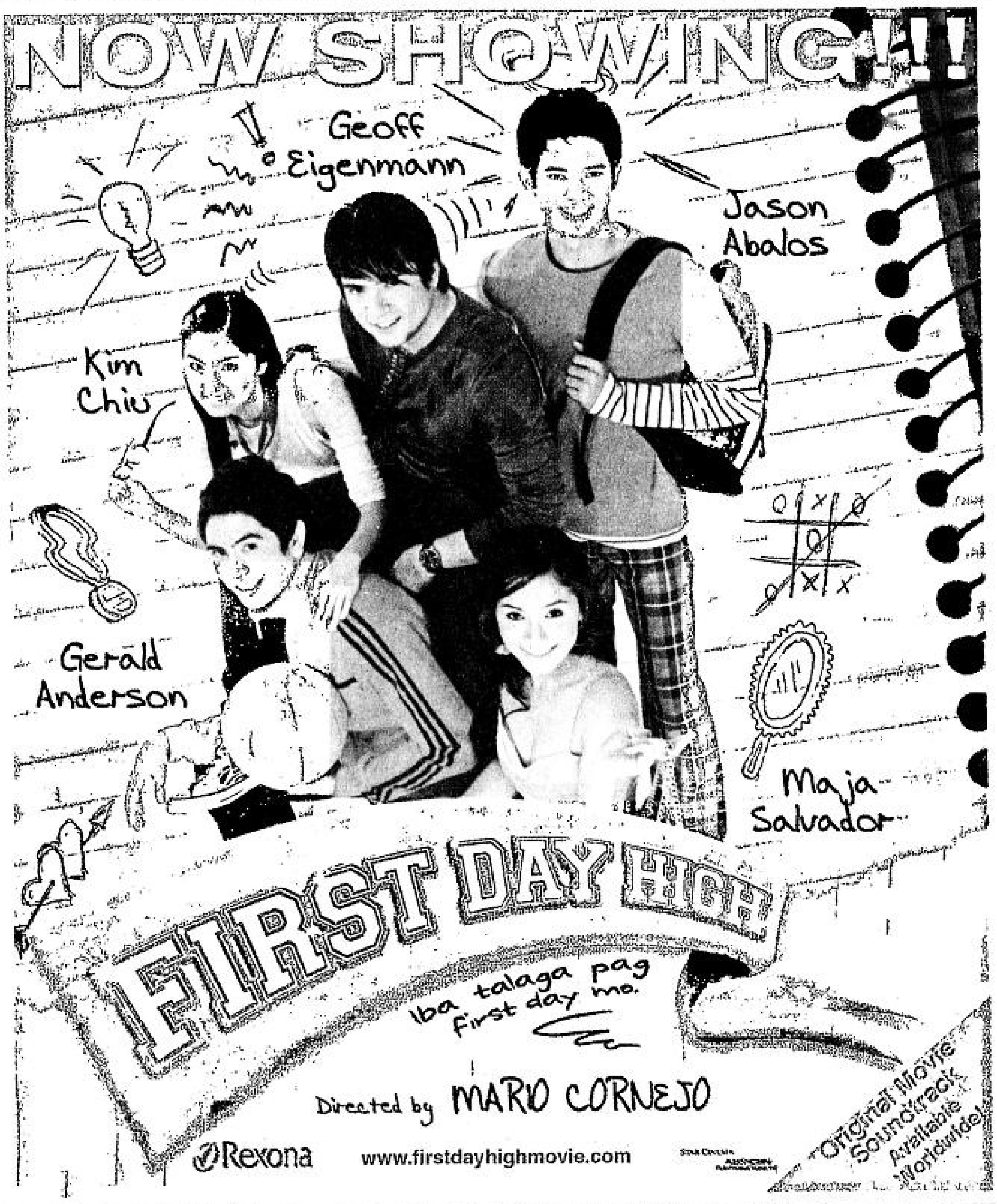

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A New York Sunday with 'The Departed' . . .

From page K1

gay, whose devotion to his family of petty thieves is tested when he befriends a principled cop, is also showing in New York at Cinema Village (22 East 12 St.).

Upgraded

Talk about musical chairs, Hollywood style. On our recent flight from New York, we witnessed a game of musical chairs: **Matt Damon's** publicist got elevated from business to first class; a certain columnist was upgraded to a business class seat, presumably the one originally for the PR agent; and top photographer, **Annie Leibovitz**, whose latest coup is the Vanity Fair cover and 22-page spread of **Suri Cruise** and her parents, was sent to the ... economy section!

One of the world's highest-paid shutterbugs sitting way at the back of the plane? We saw Annie straggle into the plane very late, racing into the aisle and catching her breath. "We've seen really big stars at the back," said a stewardess when told about who that tardy passenger was. She once saw **Diane Sawyer** in the coach section. The TV personality was cool about it, the attendant added. Annie was late so the airline must have given her first class seat (we presumed) to someone else, setting off a chain of upgrades and downgrades.

"I must have taken her seat," Matt's spokesperson told me with a sheepish grin as we collected our luggage at the LAX carousel. And poor Annie got my economy section seat.

Three Ms & an L

The NY trip was for an entire Sunday devoted to press cons with "The Departed" director and stars, **Martin Scorsese, Matt Damon** and **Mark Wahlberg**—the three Ms—and **Leonardo DiCaprio**. This crime drama, which Martin stressed is not a remake of "Infernal Affairs" but is based on that excellent Hong Kong thriller, also stars **Jack Nicholson**. The actor didn't make it to the interviews because he was stuck in an LA hospital for a salivary gland infection.

In Martin's best film in several years, an undercover cop's (Leonardo) mission is to take down a mob lord (Jack). But unknown to the police force where Mark is one of the detectives, the crime boss has a mole in the person of a hotshot sergeant (Matt). The double lives of Leonardo and Matt's characters become increasingly dangerous as they try to race in uncovering each other's identities.

JACK Nicholson as mob lord

There's the Scorsese trademark of grit and gore but the riveting action and story, and the fine performances from the all-star main cast and the supporting cast of **Martin Sheen, Alec Baldwin, Ray Winstone** and **Vera Farmiga** (in a breakout role that should give her a major career boost) make "The Departed" the filmmaker's most satisfying film since "GoodFellas."

Leonardo DiCaprio

And this is the most impressive acting we've seen of Leonardo, even compared with his turns in his first two Scorsese films, "Gangs of New York" and "The Aviator," for which he won a Golden Globe Best Actor-Drama Award. Leonardo, at 31, has finally shed his boyish looks. Even in "The Aviator" and in our interview with him during that time, the Hollywood native looked like a boy.

In "The Departed" and in person the other Sunday in New York, Leonardo appeared every inch a man. Sure, the mustache and beard probably helped but there was depth and maturity in Leonardo's face, where before he was more like a gangly teenager.

"I guess because we have been working together closely for six or seven years, I don't see a change," Martin—Marty or Scorsese to his actors—admitted when told of this physical change in Leonardo, now being tagged as the director's new male muse. "I see a progression but not necessarily a change from boy to young man to adulthood. That's interesting. I never noticed that. I just worked with the young man. You see, I keep thinking of him as this really wonderful actor that **Robert De Niro** told me about in 'This Boy's Life' which was 15 years ago. There was no doubt—he was a young man in 'Gangs of New York.'"

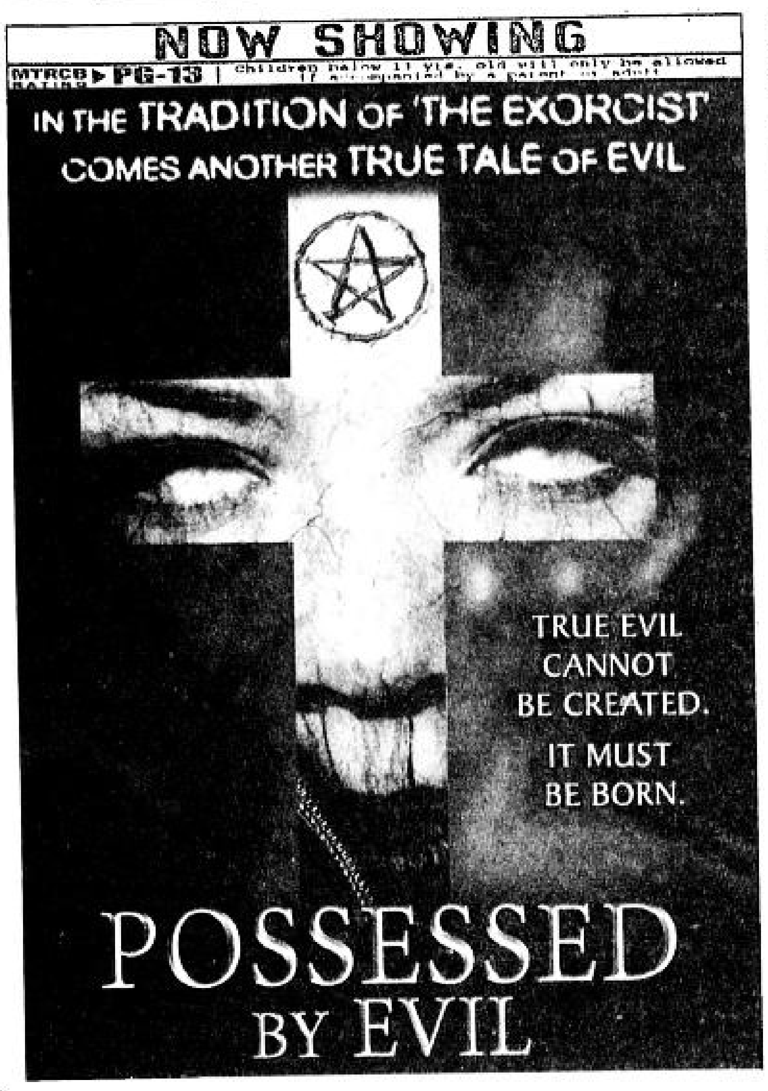
"Familiar, familiar faces," Leonardo said, his blue eyes smiling as he settled into a chair and took in the sight of journalists in front of him.

We asked him how unpredictable Jack Nicholson was during their scenes together (he held his own against the scene-stealing veteran actor). His reply confirmed the rumor that Jack's role got bigger as the filming progressed.

Leonardo answered, "If you hire Jack Nicholson to play an Irish mob kingpin in a Martin Scorsese film of this genre, he's going to make it his own. And that involves a tremendous amount of not just rewriting but faith that you're going into the set every day expecting the unexpected and that he's going to throw curveballs at you. You have to be completely prepared for anything. It was tons of improvisation with him."

He elaborated: "One of my scenes with Jack is an interrogation when he's trying to figure out whether I'm the rat (police mole) or not. We did this scene one way. He had a conversation with Scorsese afterward where he said, 'I don't think he (Leonardo as Billy Costigan) is scared enough of me. I have to be scarier (laughter).' So we came in the next day. Jack's hair was all over the

A NEW/ K4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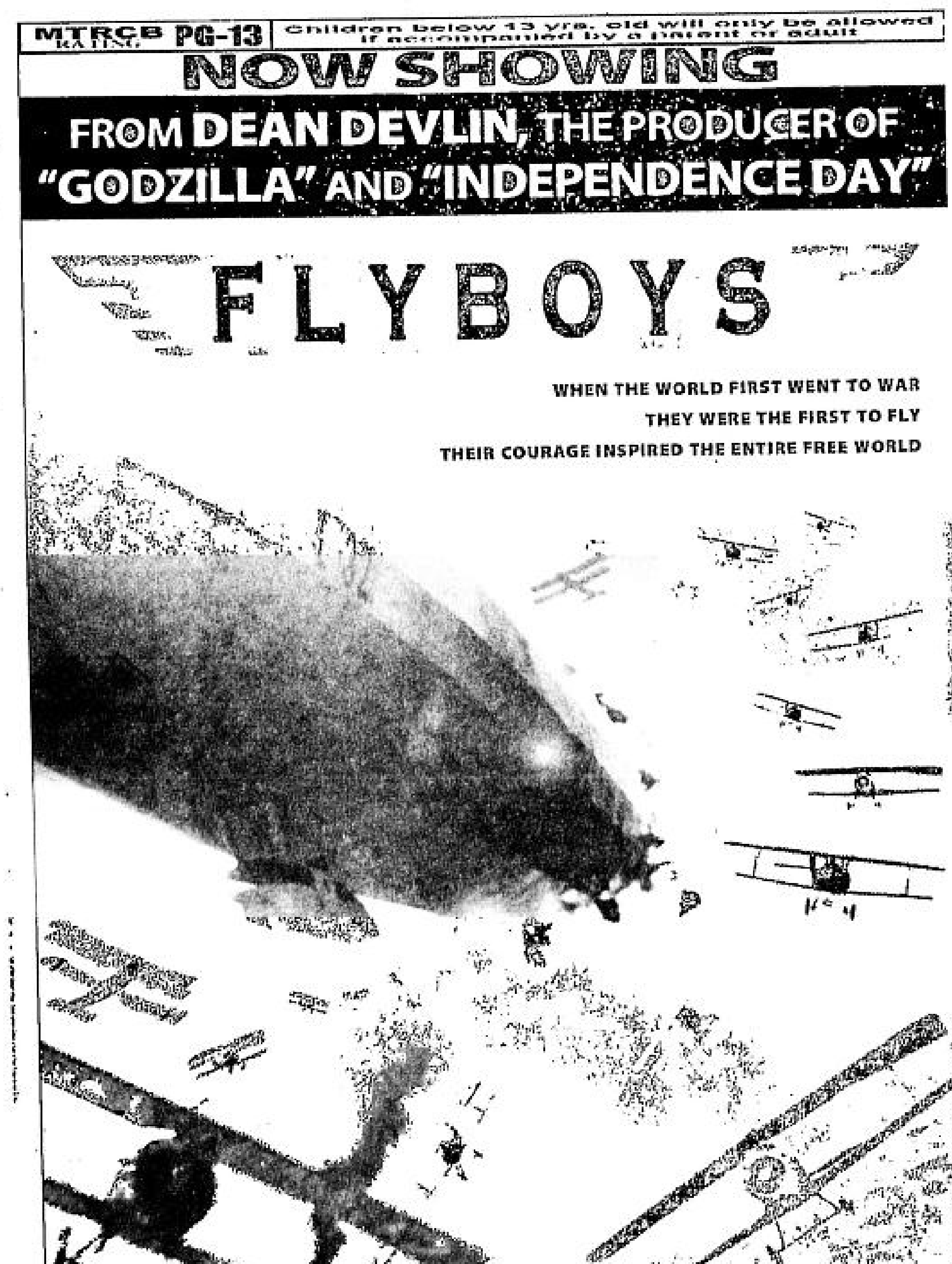
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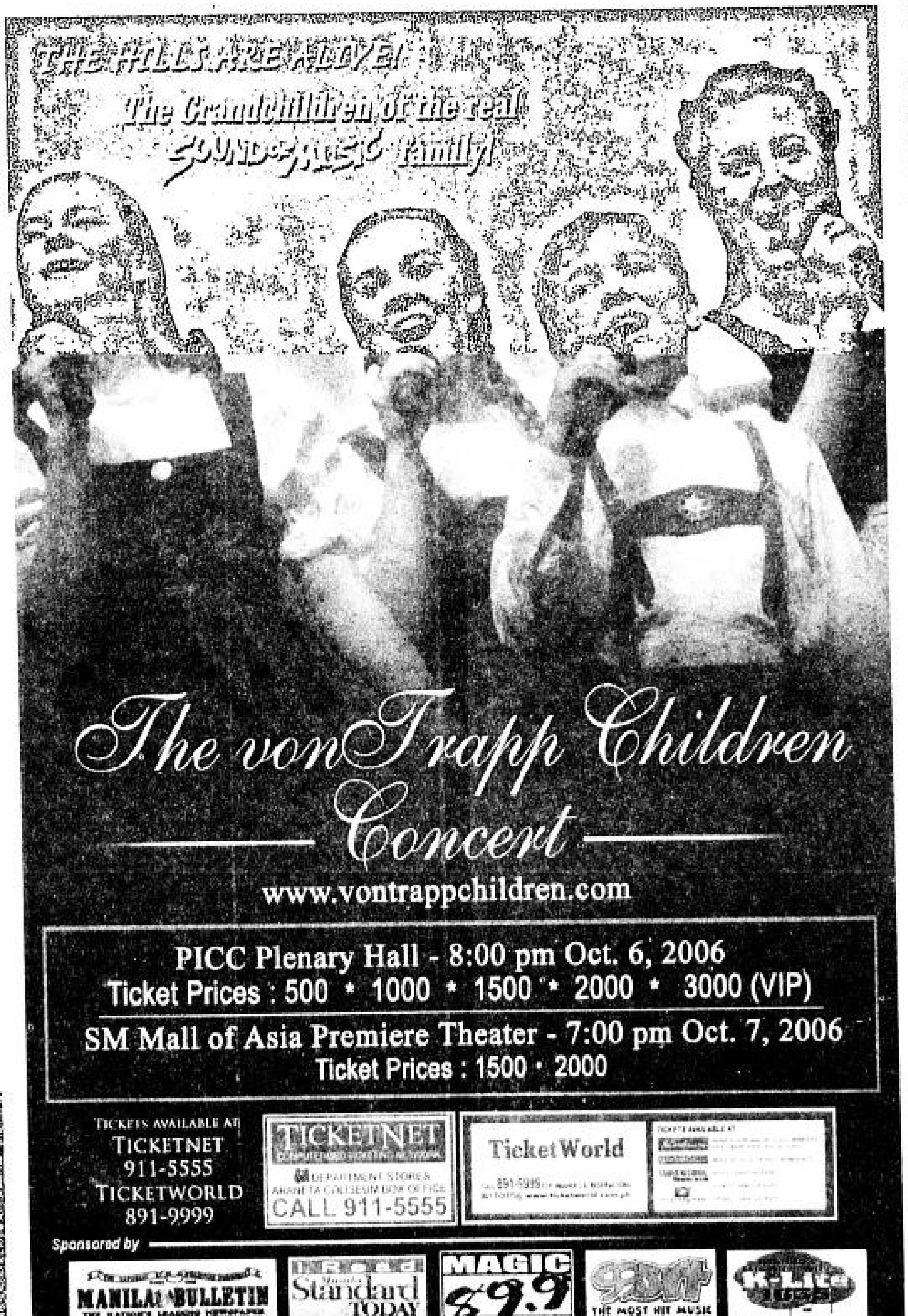
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Metro Phi (pronounced as "fie") Restobar is a multi-function venue located at the Metrowalk Commercial Complex, Meralco Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Call 638-8896.

SHOW TIME

PAROKYA ni Edgar

Bicol music explosion

Winston Wings Tour 2006 kicks off in the cities of Naga (at Avenue Square) today and Legaspi (at Hotel Venezia) tomorrow, with Parokya ni Edgar performing on the two weekend parties.

The band is expected to play songs from their latest Universal Records album, "Halina sa Parokya."

Winston Wings Tour 2006 is this year's edition of the "Winston in Concert" series.

Today

Jed Madela "Songs Rediscovered" album tour at The Podium; 5 p.m.

Hush and Highlights at Mugen Bar. Call 637-4089.

RJ 'n' Friends with Moonstrucks at RJTV Bar. Call 899-1658

The Jerks at '70s Bistro, Anonas, QC

Route 70 at Merk's, Greenbelt 3

Fat Session at Tavern on the Square, Greenbelt 3

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Imago "Blush" album tour at SM Sta. Rosa; 5 p.m.

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THE BREED 12:40 / 4:50 / 9:00	DEAD OR ALIVE 1:25 / 3:30 / 5:35 / 7:40 / 9:45	JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE 2:30 / 7:10	
TWILIGHT DANCERS 2:20 / 5:00 / 9:40	STEP UP 2:00 / 4:30 / 7:00 / 9:30 CRANK 2:45 / 6:55	THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 5:00 / 9:40 YOU ARE THE ONE 12:20 / 2:40 / 7:20	ZOOM 2:30 / 4:40 / 6:50 / 9:00

ALIMALL 5

ZOOM 12:10 R3 / 1:40 / 3:50 / 6:00 / 8:10	FLYBOYS 11:40 / 2:40 / 5:40 / 8:40	DEAD OR ALIVE 12:20 / 2:25 / 4:30 / 6:35 / 8:40
POSSESSED BY EVIL 1:00 / 3:25 / 5:50 / 8:20	FIRST DAY HIGH 12:10 R4 / 1:30 / 3:50 / 6:10 / 8:30	DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

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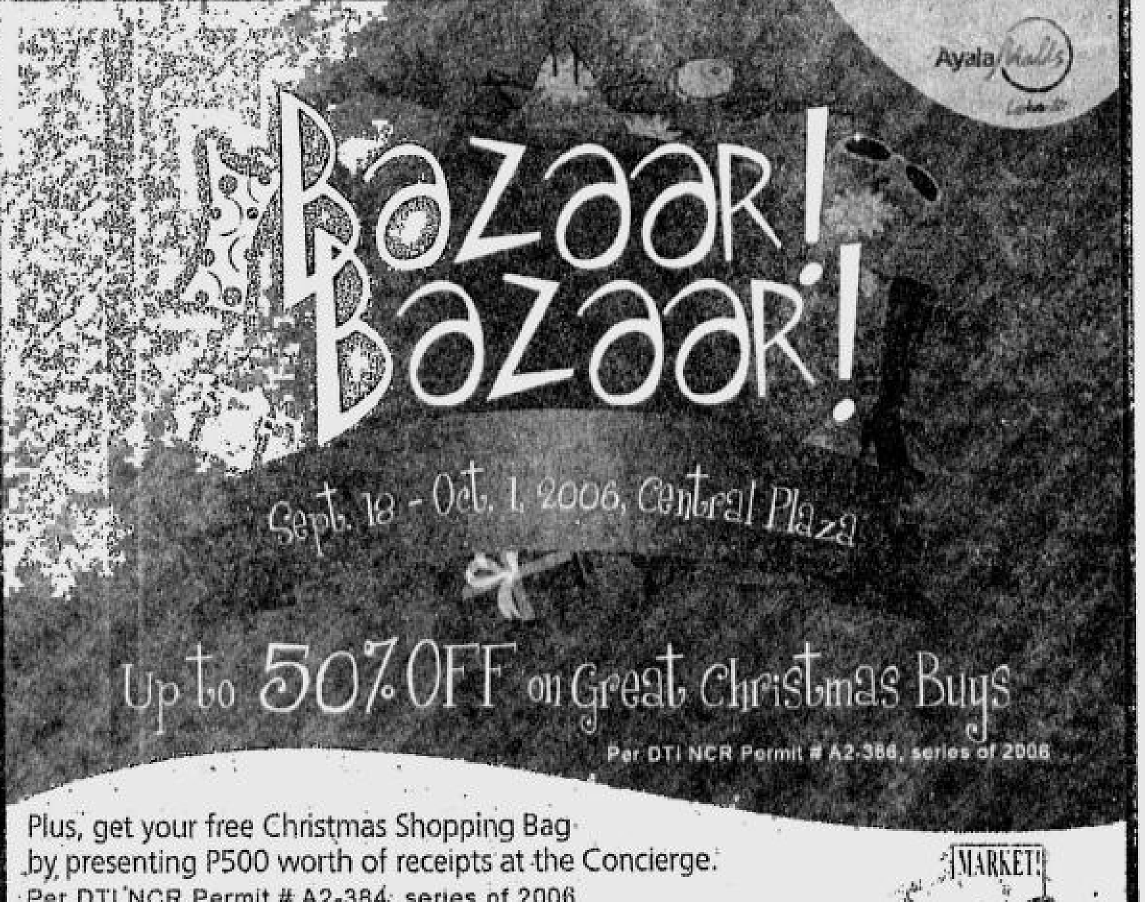
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MARKET! MARKET!

A New York Sunday with 'The Departed' cast and director

From page K2

JACK Nicholson confers with director Martin Scorsese.

place. He was muttering to himself. The prop guy tipped me off that Jack had a fire extinguisher, a bottle of whiskey, matches and a handgun somewhere. I sat down on the table not knowing what to expect. Of course, I saw his collage (sketch) of rats attacking the White House. He lit the table on fire after pouring whiskey all over the place. He stuck a gun in my face. I call that my triple Fredo (Corleone) moment. I felt like him in 'The Godfather,' begging for life. Jack's unpredictability changed the entire dynamics of the scene. Jack makes you reactive as an actor."

When informed that **Nicolas Cage** did not relish being surprised by **James Caan** (who pulled a switchblade off camera range) in "Honeymoon in Vegas," Leonardo explained, "You have to be open to those moments to surprise yourself as an actor. For me to tell Jack Nicholson that he can't experiment is absurd. I embrace it. I like to do it myself. I think those little accidents are an intricate part of becoming a good actor. Look at Robert De Niro in 'Taxi Driver' when he said one of the classic cinema lines of all time ('You talkin' to me?'). I believe Scorsese turned the camera on and had it rolling in a rehearsal period. That's how they captured that moment."

The "Titanic" star reached for a second bottle of Fiji water when a female colleague asked him why he likes dating one model after another. "Who doesn't, right?" he replied simply, those blue eyes smiling again.

Perhaps because those tall, alluring models are, um, bastions of strength and honesty, qualities his mother Irmelin possesses? He shared, "My mother keeps saying to me, 'If you don't want to be in the business, we're completely supportive of that.' But I'm the one who keeps reminding her that this is my choice. It's great to have people like that in your life. Strong women like that are always so blunt and honest about every facet of who you are. I treasure that."

Matt Damon

Matt Damon, casually dressed in polo shirt and white tee, came into the room lugging a cup of Starbucks coffee but a waiter promptly served him a cup of the hotel's Java. "I have a lot of coffee!" he said with a grin that reminded us of what director Anthony Minghella said about him: "There's something so apple pie about him."

He turned serious when a reporter asked him about a "kind of competition" with Leonardo in terms of getting roles and awards. "I have never defined myself based on the awards I have or have not received," said the Harvard-educated actor and screenwriter (he was two semesters short of completing a degree). "My success is not dependent on other people's failure so I don't root against people. Leo and I are smart enough to know that the best version of this movie happened only because there was no competition. We were absolutely working to make each other better. If my co-actor isn't good in a scene, I am not good in the scene."

Matt, who has an Oscar and a Golden Globe for his "Good Will Hunting" screenplay (shared with Ben Affleck), continued: "I have the highest regard for Leo. I have absolutely no interest in competing over an award. I don't care. I have all the awards. I have too many things to think about. I have a kid. I'm enjoying the process of making movies too much. If you want to give awards, give them to him. I mean it. He's great in the movie and he deserves it anyway. Or give them to Marty. I know you guys already did (he won a Golden Globe Best Director Award in 2002 for "Gangs of New York") but ..."

If you think Leonardo was greatly challenged by Jack and his surprise props, wait till you read what the formidable actor sprung up—quite literally—on Matt. "Jack would do things that were nuts because he was playing this guy who was slowly unraveling," Hollywood's "nice guy" said. "For instance, in a scene that I did with him in a movie theater, he whips out this marital aid (a dildo). I was like, what is this guy doing?"

Doing a good impersonation of Jack, down to his famous voice, Matt repeated the actor's response: "I just thought the whole scene would be better if I had a big old dildo." We all laughed. Matt remembered saying, "Okay, Jack, you're probably right."

"It's supposed to throw you off," he explained of his experienced co-star's unexpected props. "If you look at Leo and me in all those scenes, we're like deer in the headlights (laughter), which is what they should be. They're terrified of this guy."

As expected, this Sunday's press con was a virtual toast by the young actors to Martin, who is perhaps the best living director in America (and yet, strangely enough, the Oscar Best Director Award has eluded him). Matt's praises are specific: "Among other things, he has an incredible eye for human behavior. He will sit there, cut and mine all the bad takes that an actor like me does (laughter) for the one moment of truth. You can turn off the sound in his films and still know what's going on despite the fact that he's cutting all over the place and across time."

Marty the monk

Matt also revealed something about working with the director that Mark Wahlberg also found remarkable: "The atmosphere on the set was unlike any other set I've been to. On the first day that we were shooting in Brooklyn, as I walked on the set, I actually stopped because I thought the cameras were rolling. It was so quiet. Then I started looking around and realized they were moving all this heavy equipment but they were doing it silently. It turns out that Marty likes the atmosphere to be very quiet and focused because he needs to think and put each sequence together. He is absolutely focused like a monk. It was like being in church. We've all been on movie sets—it's noisy. But everyone was grateful to be in Marty's company and to be working for him. Everyone goes into a whisper mode and you honestly can hear a pin drop."

Reporters then steered Matt to other, uh, more "interesting" topics such as Brangelina and Bennifer. He is only one degree separated from these pairs—the former going strong while the latter is history. Of Angelina Jolie, his co-star in the upcoming "The Good Shepherd," he said, "It was great working with Angie. She is an amazing actress. She's just so powerful. Angie's role in 'The Good Shepherd' is unlike any role she's ever had. She's much more demure and obedient. You've never seen Angie like this."

Brad Pitt and Matt are on their third "Ocean's" film together. Being Brad's buddy, he has seen first-hand the paparazzi frenzy that the Brangelina couple stirs. Matt disclosed, "The kind of media onslaught that they have to deal with is almost unfathomable. It's really incredible. I remember going to the set and immediately knowing that this was the day Angie started working on the film because suddenly 40 paparazzi would be standing outside her trailer. It was so bad that they actually had to move her trailer inside so she could just go to and from the set quickly."

Beautiful Brangelina

He added, "Brad and Angie are under a great deal of pressure but they continue to handle it so magnanimously. They live such a normal life—granted, behind a wall because they have to. But knowing them personally, if you walked into a room with them sitting there with their kids and other families with their kids, you would never be able to point out the movie stars except for the fact that they are beautiful (laughter), yeah."

As for his childhood friend Ben Affleck, who won the Best Actor Award at the recent Venice Film Festival for his role in "Hollywoodland," Matt jokingly dropped hints to the writers in front of him: "...After he wins the Golden Globe this year for 'Hollywoodland' (laughter), and after that, the Oscar, maybe he'll be ready to come back and work with me again." Nice try, Matt.

"I just love that Ben is only 34 and he's already having a comeback," Matt quipped to more laughter. "That shows how crazy this business is, right? I think Ben made some bad choices with some of the films he did. Everyone assumed that meant he wasn't talented. I never worried for a second about it. I know more than anybody how talented he is. I wrote a movie with him. I spent thousands of hours with him. I grew up with him and watched him act as a kid. I know how good he is. He made some movies that didn't work. That's all it was."

Surviving Bennifer

Then he bared his eyewitness take on the Bennifer relationship. "The romance was real," he began. "Ben knew that stuff didn't help (his career). I talked to Ben during that time. He said, 'Look, the worst thing for me to do is stay with this woman (Jennifer Lopez). It's the worst thing for my career. This is killing me.' But he loved her so he didn't choose his career over his heart. He has incredible integrity that way. He's not ambitious that way. So when everything backed off, he did his work and now everyone goes, 'Oh my God, he's a great actor.' He has always been a great actor. He was just in some bad movies. So it's exciting for me to see everybody rediscover him (laughter)."

Matt and his family—Luciana, his wife of less than a year; Isabella, their baby born only last June; and Alexia, Luciana's daughter from her first marriage—get their share of paparazzi attention. But to their relief, nowhere near the intensity of the media glare on Brad, Angelina and kids.

Matt sounded like a regular dad gladly taking his entire family on an out-of-town trip when he said, "Everyone's coming with me." Except that the Damon family is going to a location shoot for a new "Bourne" movie and daddy is the star.

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.

DIRECTOR Martin Scorsese with stars Leonardo DiCaprio and Matt Damon

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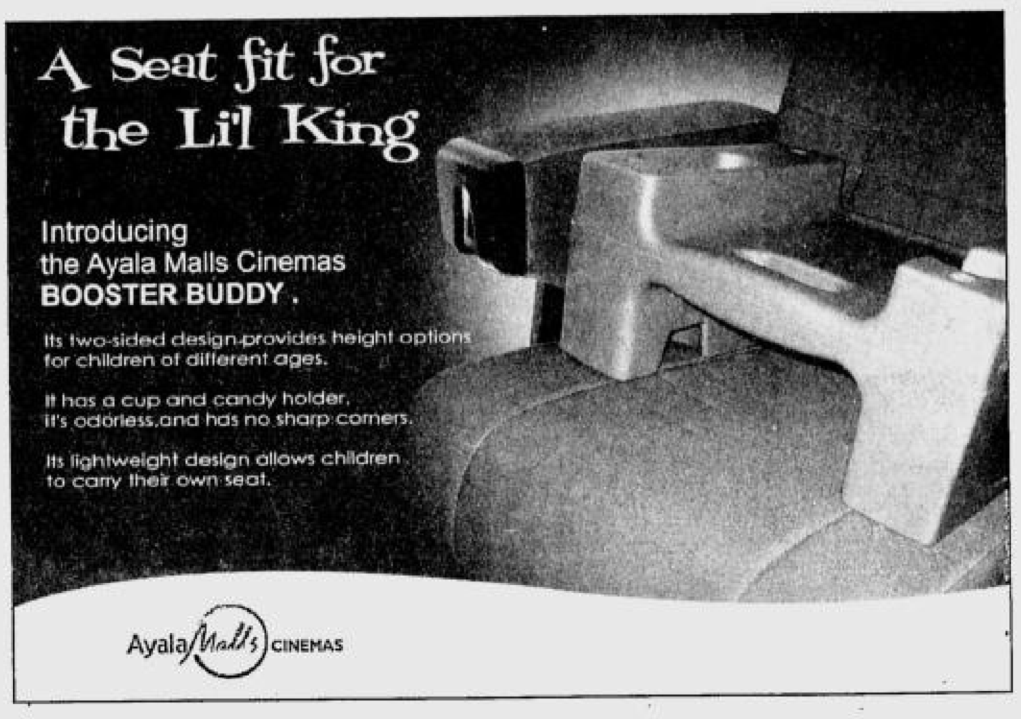
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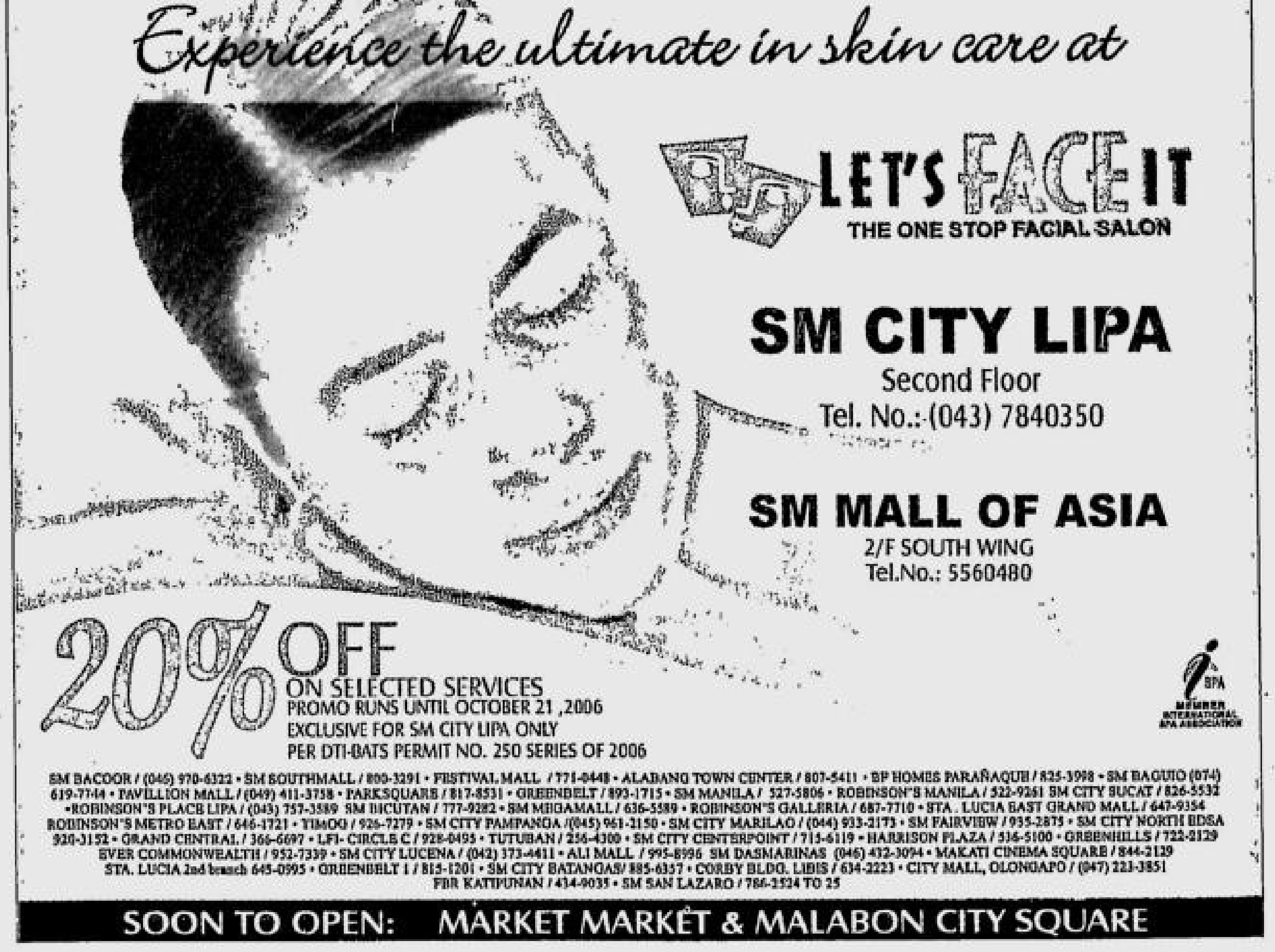
PHOTO BY RICHEL MASCARIÑAS

PUNCH-DRUNK LOVE. No, they're not warring. They're celebrating romance. Ninang Vilma Santos playfully slugs the groom's dad Rudy Fernandez. More photos of the Mark Anthony Fernandez-Melissa Garcia nuptials on *PARTY! PARTY! page L4.*

Also, Marianne de la Riva's NY wedding, *PARTY! PARTY! page L4*

More snapshots of KC's US visit with dad Gabby, *page L4*



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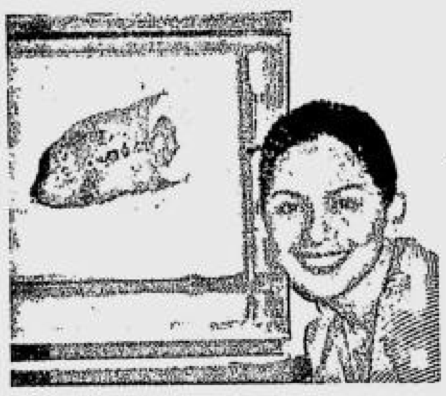


SHERILYN REYES

My husband (former cager Cris Tan) and I used to own dogs. Now we take care of a flower horn named BB. It's already our second pet fish. We bought it last November. Our first, Nix, died last year.

We really take care of BB. We clean its aquarium as often as we can. I noticed that whenever we do that, I get inquiries about job prospects. BB is our lucky charm.

We also make sure we feed BB only fish pellets. We even count them—10 pellets every meal, no more, no less.

Marinel R. Cruz

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

PINKY AMADOR

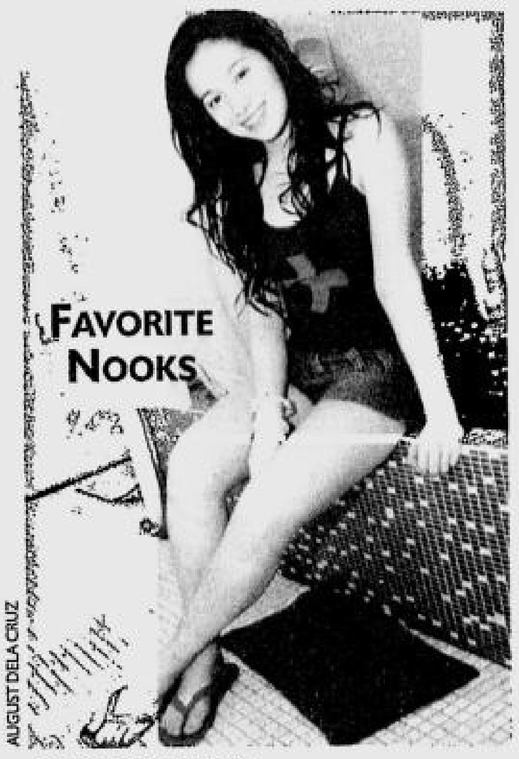
My cat, 4, is half-Siamese and half-*pusakal*. Her name is Amanda, but I call her Mandy. I named her after my character in the musical "Private Lives." She is one of the kittens of the cat of Michael Williams, my lead actor in the musical.

Mandy is super fat! She has an extra layer of skin in her belly that sways left to right when she runs. I had her spayed two years ago, maybe that's why she has gained weight.

She's so *maarte*. She doesn't eat wet cat food. Her brand of choice: Science Diet Hairball Control Lite.

Marinel R. Cruz

FAVORITE NOOKS



AUGUST DELA CRUZ

CRISTINE REYES

My bathroom is my favorite nook. It's my comfort zone. I go there even if I don't need a bath. I just sit there, stare at the mirror, listen to music or send text messages to friends. I also stay there when I feel depressed. I just put my radio in full volume and cry. I stay there for hours. My friends already know what to do while waiting for me to finish bathing.

Marinel R. Cruz

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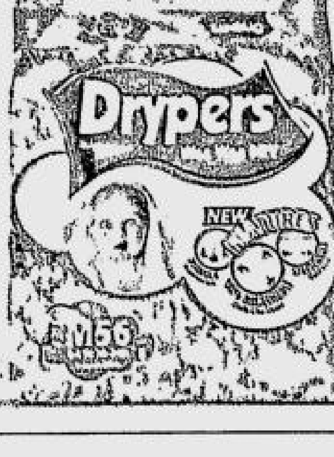

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6 TWILIGHT DANCERS
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7 DEAD OR ALIVE
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8 THE BREED
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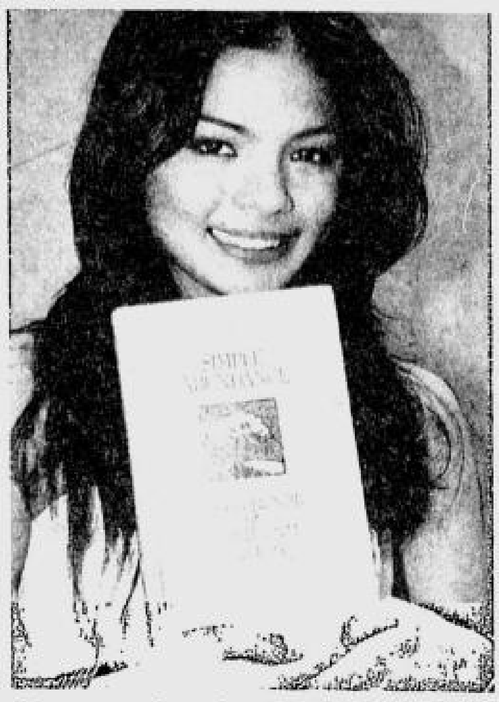
AUGUST DELA CRUZ

LOVI POE

I read a lot of books like the "Chicken Soup for the Soul" series. I just finished Dan Brown's "The Da Vinci Code." I wanted to read the novel before watching the movie. The film was nice, but the book was better. Now, I'm reading "Simple Abundance: A Daybook of Comfort and Joy" by Sarah Ban Breathnach. I learn a lot from this inspiring book. It's about the things we go through every day. It makes me realize that even seemingly ordinary days can teach us a lot of lessons. That every single day counts.

Bayani San Diego Jr.

GREENHILLS CINEMAS
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NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1 FIRST DAY HIGH
11:05 , 1:30 , 3:55
6:20 , 8:50
PG-13

CINEMA 2 DEAD OR ALIVE
12:40 , 2:45 , 4:50
6:55 9:00
PG-13

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

PROMENADE
GREENHILLS
...a dinetertainment for all!

NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 3 STEP UP
12:40 , 3:10 , 5:40
8:10 , 10:35
PG-13

CINEMA 4 ZOOM
11:10 , 1:25 , 3:35
5:45 , 7:55 , 10:10
GP

CINEMA 5 FLYBOYS
10:35 , 1:35 , 4:35
7:35 , 10:35
PG-13

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM

OCT. 07 , 2006	AKAFELLAS	8:00 PM
OCT. 13 , 2006	GENEVA C. AIZA S. TRUEFAITH, JAYA, CHOKOLATE, JAY-R	8:00 PM

T·E·A·T·R·I·N·O
PROMENADE GREENHILLS

EVERY MONDAY	DANCE NIGHT	7:00PM
EVERY WEDNESDAY	CERRUDO .. CLASSICO	8:00PM
SEPT. 21, 28, OCT. 12, 26, 28	ISAY ALVAREZ & ROBERT SENA	8:30 PM
OCT. 7, 14 21, 2006	AYEN LAUREL & RAYMUND LAUCHENGCO	8:00 PM
	FOR INQUIRIES PLS CALL 722-4532 LOC 116	

FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

There are some frequencies we were never meant to find.
OPENS OCTOBER 4

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TRUE FAITH
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Eastwood Central Plaza
FREE ADMISSION

Eastwood City
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EASTWOOD CINEMAS
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

1 STEP UP
1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00
PG-13

2 ZOOM
2:00, 4:10, 6:25, 8:40, 11:00
G

3 FLYBOYS
2:20, 5:20, 8:20, 11:10
PG-13

4 FIRST DAY HIGH
2:05, 4:35, 7:05, 10:00
GP

For inquiries, call:
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

RED CARPET

US socialite Paris Hilton poses for photographers as she arrives for a news conference to promote a new drink in Munich on Sept. 25. Two days after, she was charged with driving under the influence, according to the Associated Press.

REUTERS

MARIANNE and her groom are now based in New Jersey.

Beautiful bride

From page L4

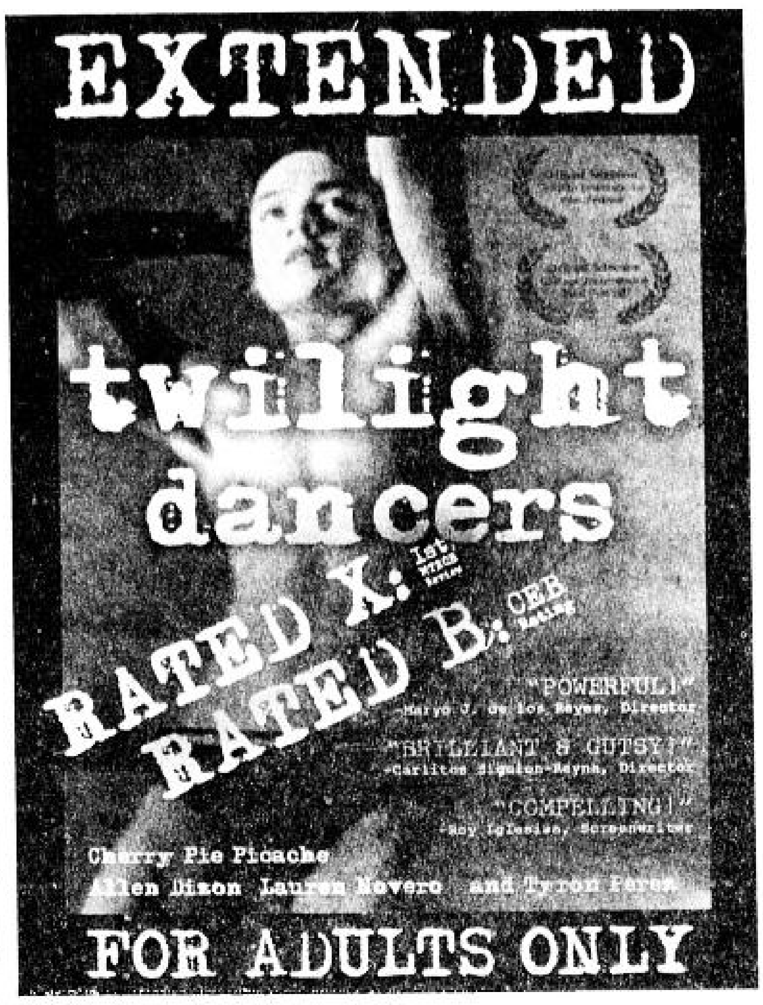
States, where the actress is now based.

Only close relatives and friends attended the very private ceremony and reception held at The Ritz-Carlton in New York City.

Marianne's groom, who hails from Quezon City, took his pre-med at the University of the Memorial Medical Center and trained at the Columbia University-Presbyterian Medical Center in New York City. He later set up his private practice in Toms River, New Jersey.

Marianne, whose most famous role was as Luisa on the 1970s soap opera "Gulong ng Palad," was most recently seen on the TV shows "Kung Mawawala Ka," "Basta't Kasama Kita," "Mga Anghel na Walang Langit" and "Panday."

THE WEDDING party at The Ritz-Carlton


EXTENDED
twilight dancers
RATED X: 1st MTRCB Rating
RATED B: CEB Rating
"POWERFUL!" -Marya J. de los Reyes, Director
"BRILLIANT & GUTSY!" -Carlitos Siguion-Reyna, Director
"COMPELLING!" -Roy Iglesias, Screenwriter
Cherry Pie Picache
Allen Dizon Lauren Novero and Tyron Perez
FOR ADULTS ONLY

POWER PLANT CINEMA

Rockwell Center Makati City Tel. Nos. 8981440-41

D.O.A.: DEAD OR ALIVE PG13 2:10,4:10,6:10,8:10	ZOOM G 2:10,4:10,6:10,8:10,10:10	FLYBOYS PG13 2:00,4:50,7:40,10:30
FIRST DAY HIGH G 12:40,3:00,5:20,7:40,10:00	JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE PG13 1:00,3:00,5:00,7:00,9:00	STEP UP PG13 1:25,3:40,5:55,8:10,10:25

MOVIES AND SCREENING SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR VERIFICATION CALL [illegible]
MATINEE PHP 111.00 – SCREENINGS BEFORE 5:00 PM – FREE SEATING – MONDAY-FRIDAY

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 ZOOM
MTRCB GP
1.05, 3.15, 5.30, 7.45, 10.00

2 FLYBOYS
MTRCB PG-13
1.00, 4.00, 7.00, 10.00

3 FIRST DAY HIGH
MTRCB GP
12.10, 2.35, 5.00, 7.25, 9.50

4 STEP-UP
MTRCB PG-13
12.00, 2.30, 5.00, 7.30, 10.00

PREMIERE THEATRE
JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
MTRCB PG-13
1.40, 3.45, 5.50, 7.55, 10.00

Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

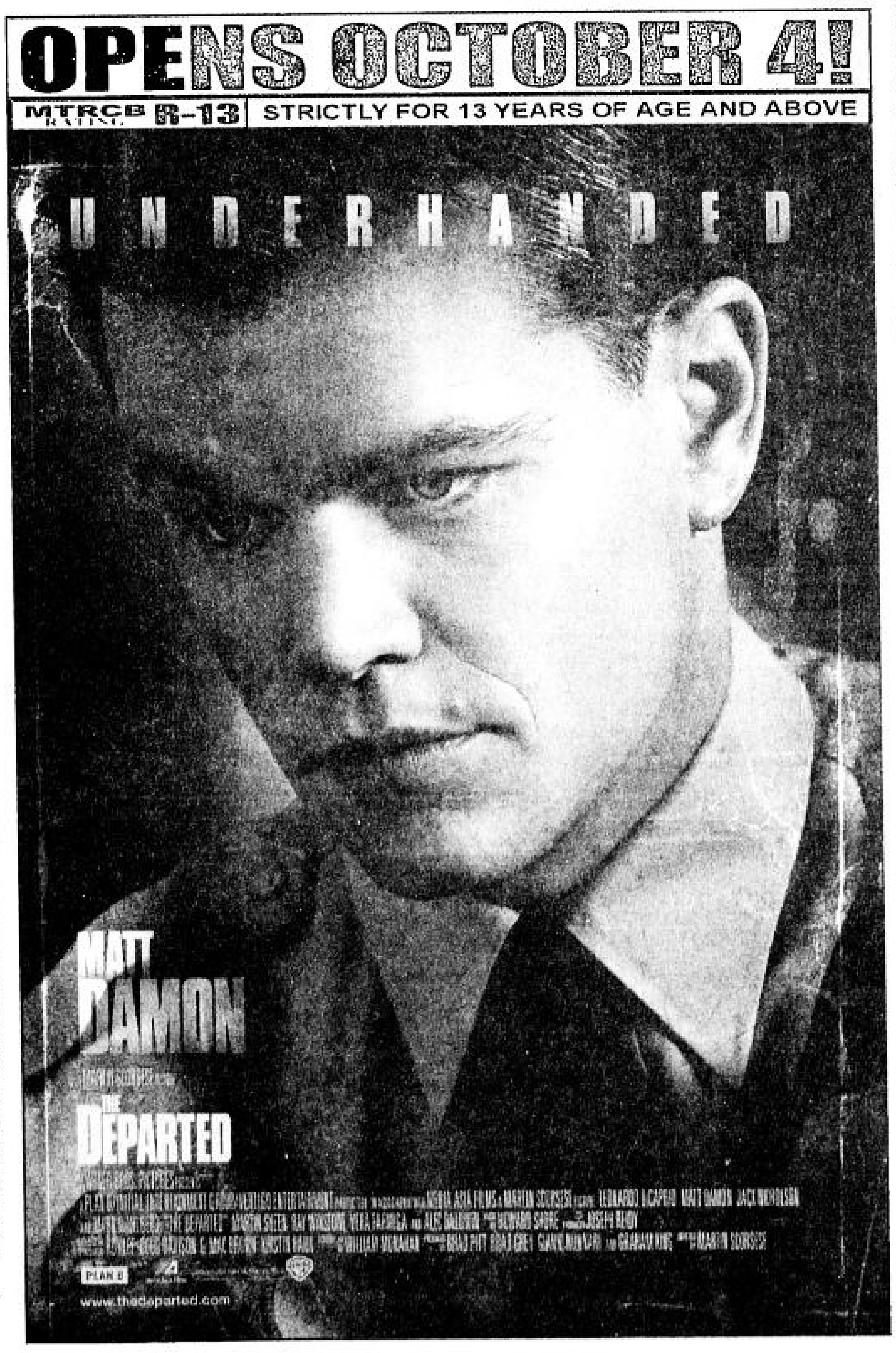
Catch the Cineplex Special

MONDAY AND TUESDAY SPECIALS

On Mondays and Tuesdays, starting August 14, enjoy special prices of P99.00 for Cinemas 1-4, P120 for the Premiere Theatre (exclusive of food and drinks).
Not applicable to selected movies, on holidays, sneak previews and and in conjunction w/ other Shang Cineplex discounts and promos.
Specials last until Nov. 14, 2000. See posters and flyers for details.
Per DTI NCR Permit No. [illegible] Series of 2006

Call 633-7851, loc. 171 or 633-2227 for more details.

Shangri-La Plaza



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movietime PROMO

Now Share a movie with a loved one at SM Cinema

Buy two movie tickets and get a FREE MOVIE ON YOUR NEXT VISIT.

Promo is from Aug. 14 to Oct. 15 Mondays thru Thursdays. Also applicable every 3 Day Sale (Friday, Saturday, Sunday) on particular mall within the promo period.
FREE movie pass is valid on a specific 60-day period.
See flyers for details. Per DTI NCR Permit No. 2440 Series of 2006.

Megamall • North Edsa • Manila • Sta. Mesa • San Lazaro • Sta. Mesa • Las Piñas Fairview • Sucat • Bicutan • Valenzuela • Molino • Bacoor • Dasmariñas • Batangas Lucena • MarilaoPampanga • Clark • Baguio • Cebu • Davao • Cagayan de Oro • Iloilo The Podium • Mall of Asia Cinemas

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INGRATA

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•Oct 25	STICK IT	•Nov 22	THANK YOU FOR SMOKING

METRO MANILA

SM MALL OF ASIA 556-0104
IMAX
T-REX
11:00AM 12:30PM 10:00PM
Admission Price- P300
ANT BULLY 3D
5:00PM
SUPERMAN RETURNS
7:00PM Admission Price- P350
1 FLY BOYS
2 DEAD OR ALIVE
3 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE.
4 ZOOM
5 THE BREED
6 INGRATA
PREMIERE CINEMA
FIRST DAY HIGH
DIRECTOR'S CLUB
DEAD OR ALIVE
CENTERSTAGE
STEP UP
THE PODIUM
CINEMA 1
FLY BOYS
CINEMA 2
ZOOM
633-8076

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
1 CRANK
2 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
3 FLY BOYS
4 FIRST DAY HIGH
5 POSSESSED BY EVIL
6 STEP UP
7 DEAD OR ALIVE
8 FIRST DAY HIGH
9 INGRATA
10 YOU ARE THE ONE
11 THE BREED
12 ZOOM

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 FLY BOYS
2 ZOOM
3 PHILIPPINE IDOL
4 JOSEPH THE DREAMER
5 STEP UP
6 POSSESSED BY EVIL
7 INGRATA
8 WICKER MAN
9 DEAD OR ALIVE
10 FIRST DAY HIGH
11 YOU ARE THE ONE
12 THE BREED

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 INGRATA
2 THE BREED
3 CRANK
4 FLY BOYS
5 STEP UP
6 FIRST DAY HIGH
7 DEAD OR ALIVE
8 ZOOM
9 YOU ARE THE ONE
10 POSSESSED BY EVIL
11 ETERNITY
12 MONSTER HOUSE

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 DEAD OR ALIVE
2 ZOOM
3 FLY BOYS
4 STEP UP
5 FIRST DAY HIGH
6 WICKER MAN
7 THE BREED
8 INGRATA
9 YOU ARE THE ONE
10 CRANK

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 DEAD OR ALIVE
2 ZOOM
3 STEP UP
4 FLY BOYS
5 THE BREED
6 FIRST DAY HIGH

SM CITY SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 ZOOM
2 DEAD OR ALIVE
3 POSSESSED BY EVIL
4 FIRST DAY HIGH
5 STEP UP
6 YOU ARE THE ONE
7 THE BREED
8 FLY BOYS
9 INGRATA

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 ZOOM
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 FLY BOYS
4 DEAD OR ALIVE

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 INGRATA
2 POSSESSED BY EVIL
3 STEP UP
4 DEAD OR ALIVE
5 ZOOM
6 FLY BOYS
7 FIRST DAY HIGH
8 CRANK
9 YOU ARE THE ONE
10 THE BREED
11 SNAKES ON A PLANE
12 WICKER MAN

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4333301-04
1 FIRST DAY HIGH
2 SCOOP
3 YOU,ME AND DUPREE
4 ZOOM

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 DEAD OR ALIVE
2 ZOOM
3 FIRST DAY HIGH
4 THE BREED

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
1 ZOOM
2 FLY BOYS
3 FIRST DAY HIGH
4 DEAD OR ALIVE

ZOOM
With the help of Captain Zoom (Tim Allen), four kids hone their superpowers to save the world from destruction
NOW SHOWING
Distributed by: COLUMBIA PICTURES
MTRCB Rating G (All Ages Admitted)

SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868
1 INGRATA
2 THEN BREED
3 DEAD OR ALIVE
4 ZOOM
5 FLY BOYS
6 FIRST DAY HIGH
7 YOU ARE THE ONE
8 SNAKES ON A PLANE

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 ZOOM
2 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
3 WICKER MAN
4 SCOOP
5 SNAKES ON A PLANE
6 FIRST DAY HIGH

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
1 ZOOM
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 SNAKES ON A PLANE
4 CRANK

LUZON

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 FIRST DAY HIGH
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 YOU,ME AND DUPREE
4 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85
1 WICKER MAN
2 ZOOM
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
5 INGRATA
6 FIRST DAY HIGH

SM CITY LIPA
1 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
2 SNAKES ON A PLANE
3 FIRST DAY HIGH
4 YOU ARE THE ONE

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 SNAKES ON A PLANE
3 CRANK
4 FIRST DAY HIGH

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39
1 ZOOM
2 SNAKES ON A PLANE
3 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
4 FIRST DAY HIGH

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160
1 FIRST DAY HIGH
2 FLY BOYS
3 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
4 DEAD OR ALIVE

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5341266-66
1 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
2 SNAKES ON A PLANE
3 FIRST DAY HIGH
4 ZOOM

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 DEAD OR ALIVE
3 CRANK
4 ZOOM
5 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
6 INGRATA
7 FIRST DAY HIGH
8 WICKER MAN

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 SNAKES ON A PLANE
2 RESERVED
3 CRANK
4 FIRST DAY HIGH
5 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
6 ZOOM
7 RESERVED
8 WICKER MAN

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 INGRATA
3 FIRST DAY HIGH
4 SNAKES ON A PLANE
5 WICKER MAN
6 ZOOM

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1 WICKER MAN
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 ZOOM
4 CRANK

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

SHOWTIME
EVENT CALENDAR

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2006 The Power of Music
TEA CAN DO THAT!
Buy 2 Lipton Tea Boxes
P345

PAROKYA NI EDGAR
OCTOBER 6, 2006
SM MEGAMALL CINEMA 10 • 9:00PM

VISIT YOUR NEAREST POPPERS SNACKBARS AT THE SM CINEMAS:
- SM MEGAMALL Cinema 1 (0922-8191473)
- SM NORTH EDSA Cinema 7 (0922-8191475)
- SM MANILA Cinema 6 (0922-8191476)
- SM CENTERPOINT Cinema 3 (0922-8191440)
- SM MALL OF ASIA Cinema 4 (0922-8191468)

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*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

The visit

IN HER OWN WORDS (AND WITH SNAPSHOTS FROM HER PERsonal album), KC Concepcion recounts her 10-day summer vacation in the US where Papa Gabby Concepcion is now based.

A GOLDEN FUTURE. "At the Golden Gate Bridge. Looking forward to new beginnings and to giving second chances a chance to happen in our lives."

TURNING JAPANESE. "At a Japanese restaurant. We ate sushi in memory of our days on the beach."

TEARS OF JOY REDUX. "Yes, I was crying in the photo where I covered my face. It was taken one morning during the early part of my visit."

OPENS OCTOBER 11
MTRCB RATING ▷ PG-13
Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
KEVIN COSTNER ASHTON KUTCHER
THE GUARDIAN
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE FUGITIVE
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

Days of wine and roses

THE VILLA IMMACULADA Garden in Intramuros was in full bloom, as VIPs from the worlds of show business and politics gathered for the Christian wedding of Mark Anthony Fernandez and Melissa Garcia on Sept. 24.

THE NEWLYWEDS are flanked by their parents: Melissa's mom Liza, Mark's parents Alma and Rudy with wife Lorna Tolentino.

PARTY! PARTY!

BEAMING newlyweds kiss under a canopy of flowers.

JINGGOY Estrada

VILMA Santos

LITO Lapid

LUMINARIES from the worlds of entertainment and politics grace the occasion, but the biggest VIP is Mark and Melissa's son Grace Cameron (seated, first from right).

Among the luminaries who acted as *ninongs* and *ninangs* (principal sponsors) for the couple were Lipa Mayor Vilma Santos, Sen. Lito Lapid, Sen. Bong Revilla, Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, actor Phillip Salvador, TV host Lolit Solis, manager Annabelle Rama, Dr. Vicki Belo, Regal Films producer Lily Monteverde, among others.

Mark's proud parents Rudy Fernandez and Alma Moreno were on hand to witness the event.

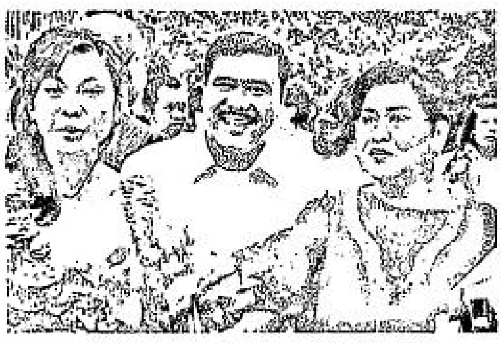
Steve Tamayo of Tamayo's Catering Services Restaurant and Flower Shop personally spruced up Villa Immaculada, where the ceremony, cocktails and reception were held. Centerpiece of the event was a number of huge flower balls, made from imported artificial blooms and fresh carnation and roses, hanging from the ceiling.

The happiest face that day belonged to Mark and Melissa's son Grace Cameron, who acted as ring bearer, wearing a replica of his dad's gold barong.

The barongs and the bridal gown were designed by Nono Palmos.

Bayani San Diego Jr.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF STEVE TAMAYO AND RICHEL MASCARIÑAS



AMONG the sponsors are Dr. Vicki Belo, Steve Tamayo and Lolit Solis.

Beautiful bride

THE BRIDE is flanked by older siblings, Isabelita and Pepito.

A PITOY MORENO MODEL AND LEADING lady of Fernando Poe Jr., Marianne de la Riva was once considered as one of Manila's prettiest and a favorite bride in local fashion shows.

Marianne made a lovely bride once again when she tied the knot with endocrinologist Oscar Ortiz on Sept. 2 in the United

BEAUTIFUL/ L3

NEWLYWEDS Marianne de la Riva and Dr. Oscar Ortiz

PHOTOS COURTESY OF SIMON KING

PINOY'S BEST BEATS THIS OCTOBER!
TIENDESITAS FIRST YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Celebration never sounded this good. Enjoy one month of great music, delightful food and exciting events at Tiendesitas.

October 01 Blessing of the Pets (10:30 AM)
Mass (11:00 AM)
Series of Lectures:
Pet Grooming for Dogs and Cats (2:00 PM)
Resource Speaker: Mr. Karl Tan
Basic Health Care for Dogs (2:30 PM)
Resource Speaker: Mr. Raymund de Villa
Nutritional Care for Dogs and Cats (3:00 PM)
Resource Speaker: Ms. May Reyes
Basic Care for Aquatic Plants/Animals (3:30 PM)
Resource Speaker: Mr. Froilan Calara Saluda
Tiendesitas Pet Idol (4:00 PM)
October 04 Kitchie Nadal Concert
October 08 Working Herding, Toy Club and Cocker Spaniel Championship Dog Show
October 11 Paolo Santos Concert
October 14 and 15 PCCI – All Breed Dog Show
October 17 to 20 Special - Extraordinary Arts and Antiques Show
October 18 Mojofly Concert
October 21 Beagle Club of the Philippines' "National Beagle Championship Show"
October 22 Feline Fanciers of the Philippines' "Cat Show Championship"
October 27 Tiendesitas Fashion Show
October 28 to 29 Team Lightspeed Car Show
October 28 Side A Concert
October 29 Tiendesitas Trick or Treat

TIENDESITAS
PINOY'S BEST EVERYDAY!

M-1

UNIVERSITY OF THE EAST DIAMOND JUBILEE 2006

UE 60 Years Strong!

Some Highlights of UE's History

1946 Dr. Dalupan and partners open CPA board exam review classes in two rented rooms; **Sept. 25, 1946:** The SEC registers the Philippine College of Commerce and Business Administration (PCCBA) as a corporation existing under Philippine laws

1947 PCCBA reviewees cop the 1st Place in the June and Dec. CPA Board exams

1949 Inauguration of the UE College of Dentistry

1950 PCCBA is granted university status, is renamed the University of the East; Founder Francisco Dalupan is installed as UE's First President

1952 UE joins UAAP; becomes a permanent UAAP member in 1954

1954 June: UE Caloocan is established initially as Vocational and Technical Training Center or "UE Tech"

1955 Opening of the UE College of Medicine, which becomes the UE Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center in 1957

1967 Former Philippine President Diosdado Macapagal joins UE as Professor

1977 UE enrollment peaks at 67,000 students

1984 Maharishi group attempts takeover; Ministry of Education and SEC eventually declare sale of UE to Maharishi as contrary to law and thus null and void

1985 UE Red Warriors win 18th of 18 UAAP Men's Basketball Championships so far

1990 The Board elects Mr. P. O. Domingo as Chairman of the Board and President—the first UE alumnus to assume these positions

1996 Sept.: UE marks Golden Anniversary; Pres. Fidel Ramos hosts UE Alumni Awards at Malacañang on Sept. 25

1998 May 18: UE and the Tan Yan Kee Foundation Inc. formalize agreement for the UE-TYKFI scholarship program

2001 Sept. 27: Dr. Lucio C. Tan given Special Tribute by UE during 55th Anniversary; **Dec.:** CHED grants Deregulated Status to UE

2003 *Enterprise* magazine recognizes UE as one of the country's "Most-Wired Universities"; **Nov. 6:** Tan Yan Kee Academic Building opens, is inaugurated on Dec. 11

2004 Feb.: UE Caloocan named "One of the Outstanding Institutions of Caloocan City"; **June:** VP Noli De Castro becomes first UE graduate to attain RP's second-highest office; **June 11:** UE alumnus-Coach Nelson I. Mariano II becomes the world's new (and RP's fifth) Grandmaster

2005 Dec.: UE athletes win eight gold medals and more at the 23rd SEA Games held in the Philippines

2006 Feb.: CBA Caloocan graduate Duchess Marie Cruz tops Intl. Licensure Exam for Certified Internal Auditors

UE at 60: A Celebration of Achievement

The University of the East, once again the only academic institution in *Computerworld Philippines'* Premier 100 list of IT users in the Philippines, is celebrating its Diamond Jubilee this year.

What began in 1946 as CPA review classes in two rented rooms in Manila has grown into two campuses—UE Manila along C. M. Recto Avenue in the heart of the University Belt, and UE Caloocan along Samson Road in Caloocan City. (The UE Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center, located in Quezon City, doubles as a campus and a medical facility.)

Founded by the late Dr. Francisco T. Dalupan Sr., UE initially made waves as the country's premier business school, for having yielded topnotchers galore in the then annual CPA board examination. Since then, the University has had a huge impact in myriad ways.

For one thing, its graduates have landed in the top ten places of the various licensure board examinations, including those for CPAs, engineers, dentists and teachers. Most recently, UE College of Business Administration graduate Duchess Marie B. Cruz, a Senior Auditor at the firm Punongbayan & Araullo, rendered the sterling feat of having topped the November 2005 International Licensure Exam for Certified Internal Auditors given by the USA-based Institute of Internal Auditors—besting over 21,000 examinees *worldwide*.

UE graduates and students have likewise triumphed individually or as national-team members in various sports tournaments, local and international alike—recently earning eight gold medals in various events at last December's 23rd Southeast Asian Games. For their part, the University's fine arts students and alumni have won artistic acclaim and prizes in various competitions and exhibitions here and abroad.

Moreover, in the last 60 years, UE has produced over 200,000 alumni who have or continue to be productive workers or successful entrepreneurs - all over the country and around the world.

This is why, as the University marks its Diamond Jubilee, the overall theme of the festivities is *achievement*—of UE's having molded the Filipino youth through quality but affordable education and who, in turn, have become achievers in their respective fields of endeavor. Thus, among the several celebratory activities lined up this September, the climactic ones are two awarding ceremonies. The first is for UE's 60 Most Outstanding Alumni—led by Philippine Vice President Manuel "Noli" L. De Castro—who will be awarded on September 29, 2006, at the UE Theater. The second awarding ceremony will be for 306 of the University's Alumni Achievers, who will be honored at the Grand Alumni Homecoming on October 1, 2006 at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club.

Making things even more exciting this year for the UE community is its being the host university of the ongoing 69th season of the UAAP—marking the University's eighth time to host the country's premier collegiate sports league. UE's latest UAAP hosting stint comes on the heels of three consecutive, off-UAAP championships earned in the past summer by its famed men's basketball team, the UE Red Warriors. UAAP Season 68 also saw the championship of the University's men's and women's fencing teams and, moreover, UE's overall championship—for the first time ever—in the UAAP juniors division, via the respective Season 68 championships of its chess, boys' and girls' volleyball, table tennis and girls' swimming teams. Early this month, the UE Woodpushers—the University's juniors chess team—won the UAAP 69 juniors chess championship—the team's fifth UAAP championship in a row. In fact, UE high school student Nelson I. Mariano III—younger brother of UE alumnus and internationally recognized Grandmaster Nelson I. Mariano II and the juniors division Athlete of the Year of UAAP seasons 67 and 68—was declared Most Valuable Player anew.

For all its academic and non-academic accomplishments, however, UE has never strayed from its primary reason for being: to provide quality yet affordable education to the youth of the land. As its Premier 100 position underscores, the University has invested millions of its own earnings in the last few years into its IT infrastructure, improving or beefing up its IT facilities and equipment to ensure that its students—as well as the rest of its constituents—are up to speed in the ever-evolving realm of the high-tech. Plus, everyone in the University is working towards its latest big challenge yet: achieving institutional accreditation. Such an accreditation would guarantee UE's continued growth in academic and other aspects, as it continues to turn the ordinary Filipino youth into an extraordinary worker or entrepreneur that can be a success here or anywhere else in the world.

Shown here are three UE landmarks: the Lualhati or Alma Mater statue, flanked by UE Caloocan's Tan Yan Kee Academic Building (left) and UE Manila's F. Dalupan Sr. Building

M.2

THE 60 MOST OUTST

Engr. EFREN R. ABRATIQUE
Commissioner, Board of
Building and Safety, LA, USA

Atty. PERSIDA V. RUEDA-ACOSTA
Chief Public Attorney, DOJ

Engr. ROMULO R. AGATEP
President-CEO, Teleglobal
Corporation

Sec. FORTUNATO P. AGUAS
Former Commissioner,
Bureau of Internal Revenue

Mr. CARLOS R. ALINDADA
Chairman, Accounting
Standards Council

Engr. RAMON P. AQUINO
Business Manager,
Philippine Institute
of Civil Engineers

Ambassador ANTONIO L. CABANGON CHUA
Chairman, Fortune
Insurance, Eternal &
Citystate Group of Cos.

Congressman DOUGLAS RA. CAGAS
Representative, 1st District,
Davao Del Sur

Ms. ROSALINA S. CAJUCOM
Former National Treasurer

Mr. PRESIDIO R. CALUMPIT JR.
Former Dean, UE College
of Computer Studies
and Systems

Mr. GUILLERMO N. CARAGUE
Chairman, United Nations
Board of Auditors

Congressman ANTON H. CERILLES
Representative, District Pr
of Zamboanga Del Su

Mr. CARLOS C. EJERCITO,
President-CEO,
United Laboratories
Group of Companies

Mr. SALVADOR M. ENRIQUEZ JR.
Former Secretary, Dept. of
Budget and Management

Mrs. ANTONIETA FORTUNA-IBE
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These accomplished UE graduates will be honored at the 60 Most Outstanding Alumni Awards to be held today, September 29, 200
ACOSTA, BS, *Cum Laude*, '82 & LLB '87; Engr. Romulo AGATEP, BS ECE '72; Sec. Fortunato AGUAS, BBA '49 & LLB '57; Mr. Carlos ALINDADA, BB
BALDEMOR, DMD '53; Atty. Rosario BERNALDO, BSBA, *Summa Cum Laude*, '72, & LLB, *Cum Laude* & Class Valedictorian, '79; Justice [illegible] BERSAM
Presidio CALUMPIT, AB '87; Atty. Guillermo CARAGUE, BBA '60; Rep. Antonio CERILLES, AB '68 & LLB '72; Mr. Rene CRISTOBAL, BBA, *Cum Laud*
'87; Rep. Gilberto DUAVIT, AB '54 & LLB '58; Mr. Carlos EJERCITO, BBA, *Cum Laude*, '64; Mr. Salvador ENRIQUEZ, BBA '53; Mrs. Antonieta IBE, BBA,
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Laude, '48; Mr. Rizalino NAVARRO, BBA, *Cum Laude*, '58; MGen. Efren ORBON, BSBA '73; Dr. Luis OROSA, DMD, *Cum Laude*, '63; Engr. Ruben PAJAR
Mr. Elrey RAMOS, BBA, *Summa Cum Laude*, '71; Mrs. Alicia REYES, BBA, *Summa Cum Laude*, '52; Engr. Cesar REYES, BSECE [illegible]; BGen. Eliseo RIO, BSE
Dante TINGA, LLB, *Magna Cum Laude*, '60; Dr. Jesus TUMANENG, DMD, '74; Justice Amado VALDEZ, LLB [illegible]; Dr. Teofila VILLANUEVA, BSE

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President, Federation of Philippine Industries Inc.

Mr. VICENTE R. AYLLON
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Dr. ANTONIO A. BALDEMOR
Former Vice Mayor, Paete, Laguna

Atty. ROSARIO S. BERNALDO
Founder-Managing Partner, R.S. Bernaldo and Associates

Justice LUCAS P. BERSAMIN
Justice (Sr. Member, 8th Division), Court of Appeals

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Mr. RENE E. CRISTOBAL
President, Manpower Resources of Asia Inc.

Hon. MANUEL L. DE CASTRO
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Ambassador **HOWARD Q. DEE**
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Mr. VICTOR C. MACALINCAG
Former Deputy Minister/ Undersecretary, Department of Finance

Atty. BIENVENIDO S. MAGNAYE
Former SVP-Executive Director, Jardine Davies Group

Police Dir. LUCAS M. MANAGUELOD
Former Directorial Staff Member, Directorate for Investigation & Detective Management

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Dr. ERLINDA C. PEFIANCO
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Justice AMADO D. VALDEZ
Former Government Corporate Counsel, Department of Justice

Dr. TEOFILA R. VILLANUEVA
OIC-Assistant Regional Director, Department of Education-Region III

Dr. HERMOGENES P. VILLAREAL
Diplomate, Intl. Congress of Oral Implantologists

Dr. ANGEL Q. YOINGCO
Former Executive Director, National Tax Research Center

m. at the UE Theatre in UE Manila. The awardees' respective degree/s from UE and year/s graduated are: Engr. Efren ABRATIQUE, BSCE '73; Atty. Perlida
[illegible] Cum Laude, '54; Engr. Ramon AQUINO, BSCE '77; Mr. Edgar ARCILLA, BBA '70; Mr. Jesus ARRANZA, AB '63, MPA '98; Mr. Vicente AYLLON, BSC '52; Dr. [illegible]
LB '73; Amb. Antonio CABANGON CHUA, BBA '56 (also High School '53); Rep. Douglas CAGAS, LLB '67; Ms. Rosalina CAJUCOM, BBA, Summa Cum Laude '52; Mr.
Hon. Manuel DE CASTRO, BSC '71; Amb. Howard DEE, BBA '51; Ms. Corazon DE LA PAZ, BBA, Magna Cum Laude '60; Justice Japar DIMAAMPAO, BSBA '82, LLB
n Cum Laude, '66; Mr. Jerry ISLA, BBA '69; Mr. Rodolfo JETURIAN, BBA '[illegible]; Mrs. Mercedes KIMWELL, BBA, Magna Cum Laude '58; Sen. Alfredo LIM, BBA '51, LLB
Bienvenido MAGNAYE, LLB '57; PDir. Lucas MANAGUELOD, BBA '69, LLB '85; Atty. Menardo MATEO, BBA '78, LLB '82; Mr. Anecito NARCISO, BBA, Magna Cum
, BSCE '73; Justice Rodolfo PALATTAO, LLB '63; Dr. Erlinda PEFIANCO, BBA, Cum Laude '[illegible]; Dr. Hermogenes POBRE, BBA '52, LLB '57; Mr. Anthony QUE, BSC '65;
Dr. Leonor ROSERO, DMD, Cum Laude '68; Atty. Silvestre SARMIENTO, LLB '67; Mr. Lucito SIOSON, BBA '58; Mr. Andrew TAN, BSBA, Magna Cum Laude '74; Justice
Hermogenes VILLAREAL, DMD '7[illegible]; Dr. Angel YOINGCO, BBA, Summa Cum Laude '50.

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Colloquiums Showcase the 'UE Mind' via Top Alumni

In line with its Diamond Jubilee this year, UE held a series of five colloquiums from June to September 2006, featuring some of UE's outstanding alumni in highly charged discussions on major topics of national interest and import—ultimately to showcase the UE Mind in action. All but the second of the Diamond Jubilee colloquiums were held at the UE Conference Hall.

The first one, "A Colloquium on Constitutional Change (The Parliamentary System: Is It the Answer?)," was held on June 30. It featured as distinguished panel members eight UE College of Law alumni: Sec. Fortunato P. Aguas, Dean Joe-Santos B. Bisquera, Rep. Douglas R.A. Cagas, Mr. Vicente B. Foz, Associate Justice Rodolfo G. Palattao, Dr. Elena S. Lim and Mr. Rufino R. Tan.

Senator Alfredo S. Lim led the distinguished UE alumni who took part in the second UE Diamond Jubilee Colloquium held last July 28 at the UE Theatre. The event—"A Day with the Generals featuring a Colloquium on National Security (Where Are We Heading?)"—featured as speakers four of UE's several alumni in the military or police service: Col. Robert Theodore S. Romero, MGen. Efren P. Orbon, PDir. Lucas M. Managuelod and Commodore Amado A. Sanglay. Also present were MGen. Jovito S. Palparan Jr. and Ms. Jennivev "Nene" S. Tamayo.

UE alumna and PRC Chairperson Dr. Leonor M. Tripon-Rosero led the panel of discussants in the third colloquium held on August 18. The "Colloquium on Health Care Services (Present Status & Predicament)" featured as distinguished panel members Pres. Romeo A. Divinagracia and Dean Carmelita C. Divinagracia of UERMMMC, Dr. Jose A Sabili, Dr. Romeo O. Encanto and Dr. Prudencio Ricardo T. Dequiña.

UE alumni-cum-prominent media practitioners were the distinguished panel members of the fourth colloquium, "Media in the Shaping of the Filipino Mind": Mr. Teo T. Antonio; Mr. Robert T. Capco; Mr. Dennis F. Fetalino, Mr. Roman F. Floresca, Mr. Lito U. Gagni; Mr. Jose M. Galang Jr., Mr. Manuel F. Martinez, Mr. Federico D. Pascual Jr.; Mr. Sigfreid B. Sanchez; and Mr. Samuel V. Señoren.

UE alumni-cum-business leaders were the distinguished panel members of "Rx: Economic Take-off," the fifth of the UE Diamond Jubilee colloquiums, held on September 18. The speaker-discussants were Ms. Corazon S. De La Paz, Mr. Wilson T. Young, Mr. Jesus L. Arranza and Mr. Benjamin J. Yambao. Featured as reactors were Mr. Abraham A. Purugganan, UE alumnus Maximo S. Gomez, Mr. Napoleon P. Micu and Ms. Jean Encinas Franco.

Grand Alumni Homecoming Honors 306 UE Alumni Achievers

A total of 306 of UE's countless alumni achievers will be honored at the UE Alumni Association Inc.-sponsored Grand Alumni Homecoming this Sunday, October 1, at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club in Mandaluyong City.

The said achievers are classified according to the various fields of endeavor where UE alumni have made waves through the years. In the practice of public accountancy, 35 alumni will be recognized; in arts and culture, 13; in business management, 40; in entrepreneurship, 11; in public service through either civic or non-government organizations, 8; in the practice of dentistry, 6; in education and the academe, 26; in government service, 77; in journalism, 8; in the practice of law, 10; in the military and police service, 41; in science and technology, 10; in sports, 9; and in their respective careers overseas, 12.

For more information on the 2006 Grand Alumni Homecoming, interested parties may contact the UE Alumni Foundation Inc. at 735-5471 local 310 or 735-8562. All UE alumni are enjoined to update their data by emailing <*alumni@ue.edu.ph*>.

UE, NO. 1
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UE, NO. 1! Above is a billboard featuring three UE alumna turned licensure exam topnotchers: (from left) Ms. Duchess Marie B. Cruz, the UE College of Business Administration graduate who topped the November 2005 International Licensure Exam for Certified Internal Auditors—besting over 21,000 examinees worldwide; Dr. Marigold Rose T. Almoradie, who topped the May-June 2005 Dentistry Board Exam; and Dr. Karen L. Nielsen, the UERMMMC College of Medicine graduate who topped the 2004 Medical Board Exam. This billboard is located along the northbound lane of EDSA in Quezon City, across the MRT Quezon Avenue station.

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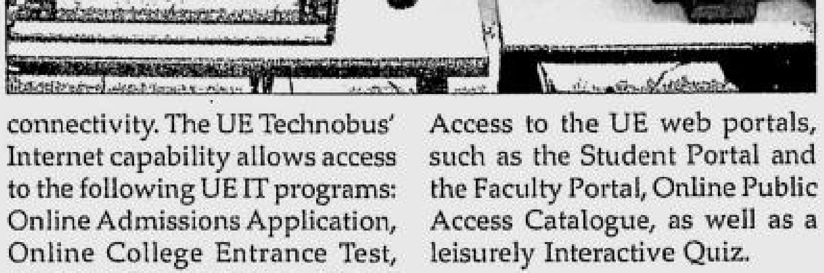
UE—Still the Only School in 'Premier 100' List of IT Users

UE has led the "IT way of life" for practically a decade now, earning for the University the reputation of being named by *Enterprise* magazine as one of the country's Most Wired Universities and being the only school in *Computerworld Philippines* magazine's annual Premier 100 list of IT users in the Philippines.

The UE Campuses have over 2,000 high-speed computers for use by the UE community—especially by the students via the University's Internet and multimedia rooms, such as those housed in the P. O. Domingo Center for Information Technology on the Manila Campus and in the computer laboratories of the Tan Yan Kee Academic Building on the Caloocan Campus. Several other day-to-day functions within the University run on information technology as well—such as the security-enhancing "smart" ID system, whereby students, teachers and employees' bar-coded ID cards can activate the Campus gates' electronic turnstiles upon entering; and the information-retrieval machines in the "info kiosks" which allow students to access their academic records and other data any time *a la* automated teller machines.

Further showcasing UE's IT capabilities is the UE Technobus, the latest and one of the most innovative marketing and promotion tools ever used by any educational institution. The UE Technobus, a mobile microcosm of the UE IT network, is designed to offer potential UE enrollees a glimpse of UE's "IT way of life." The University's marketing teams take the UE Technobus to high school students all over Metro Manila and beyond, to give the youth a taste of how technology is used in UE as a tool for education.



The UE Technobus is an air-conditioned, customized coaster with red interiors, equipped with 10 red cubicles with computer tables and seats, 10 latest-model IBM mobile notebooks utilizing Intel Pentium M 725 with built-in web cameras and high-tech Internet access through the new Smart Bro wireless broadband Internet connection. The Technobus also has a printer, a built-in multimedia sound system with a public address system, a multimedia projector, a plasma TV set and an antenna that facilitates connection to the nearest Smart cell site. The UE Management Information Systems Department configured the Technobus' ethernet wireless network interconnectivity. The UE Technobus' Internet capability allows access to the following UE IT programs: Online Admissions Application, Online College Entrance Test, Alumni Registration, Demo Access to the UE web portals, such as the Student Portal and the Faculty Portal, Online Public Access Catalogue, as well as a leisurely Interactive Quiz.

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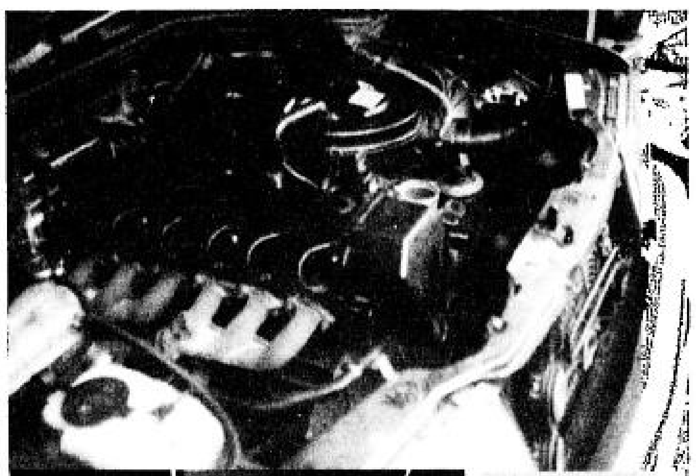
Tomorrow Begins in the East.

ROADTALK

E-mail: aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Aries Espinosa

LPG for cars?

The idea's simmering and ready to be served



OLD CARS and gas guzzlers hum to a new tune, thanks to LPG. Shown above is the engine bay for a typical 'dual' setup.

Liquified petroleum gas (LPG, LP Gas, or autogas) is a mixture of hydrocarbon gases used as a fuel in heating appliances, and increasingly replacing chlorofluorocarbons as an aerosol propellant and a refrigerant to reduce damage to the ozone layer

LPG has been in commercial use for nearly a century. Literally languishing in the Pinoy kitchen all that time, LPG is beginning to take on a different role for an increasing number of motorists who can't stand the heat of rising pump prices of conventional fuels anymore.

When crude oil prices began rising sharply sometime in 2005, a handful of LPG installers came out into the open trumpeting the environmental and cost benefits of using LPG as an alternative fuel for vehicles.

And while most installers catered more to the mass-based 1.3-liter Japanese brand models, those who owned older but larger engined sedans were left holding the gas pumps to fend for themselves.

Simply put, most LPG installers went for the mass market of compact sedans, which already were fuel misers in the first place, while those who owned old gas guzzlers that consumed P100 worth of gasoline a week 20 years ago but now wouldn't get anywhere on a P1000 weekly budget are left scratching their heads and won-

LPG/ N2

'Green' fuel hot global commodity

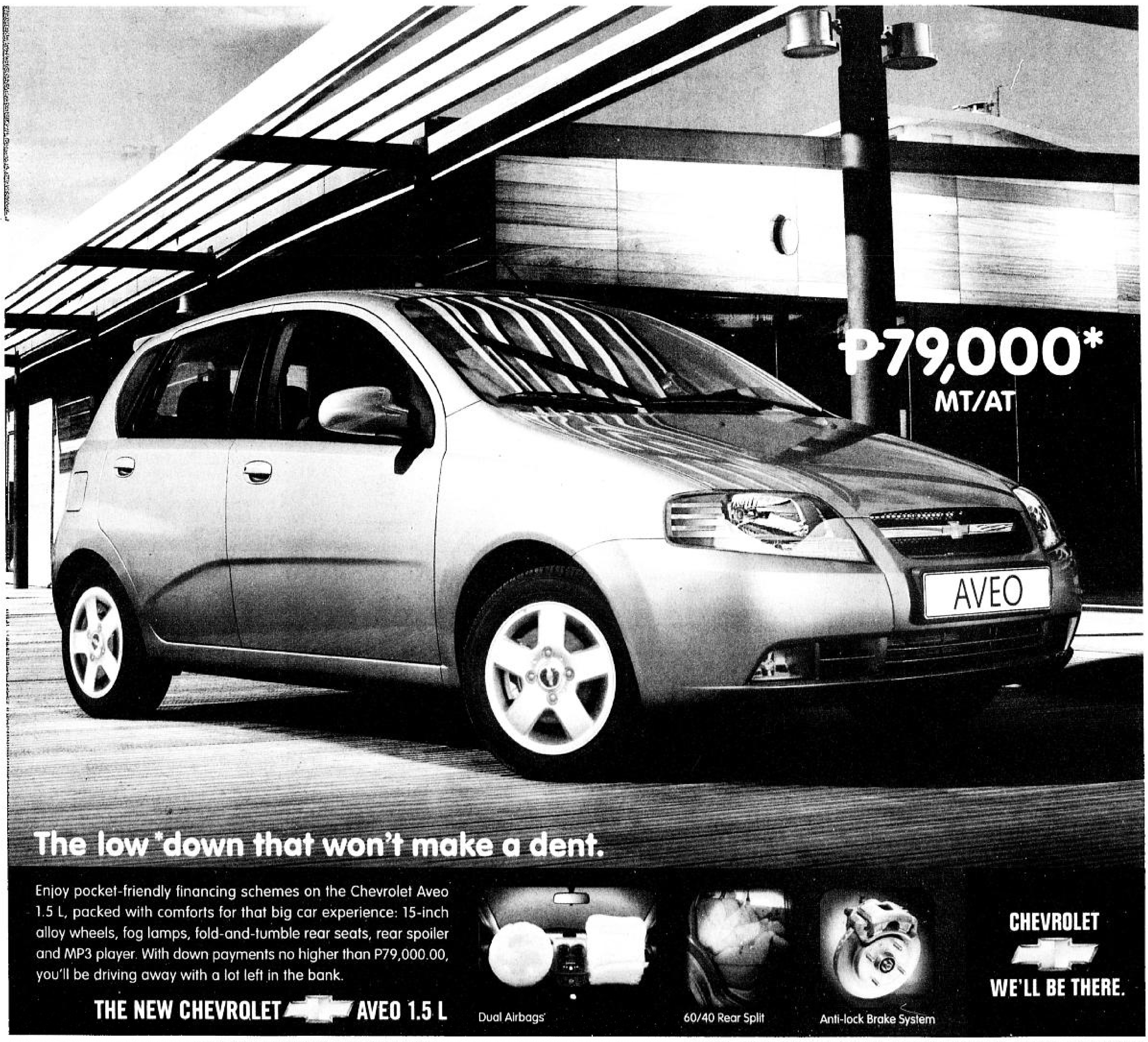
LPG IS WIDELY USED AS A "GREEN" fuel for internal combustion engines as it decreases exhaust emissions. It has an octane rating (RON) that is between 90 and 110 and an energy content (higher heating value-HHV) that is between 25.5 megajoules per liter (for pure propane) and 28.7 MJ/L (for pure butane).

Toyota made a number of LPG engines in its 1970s M, R, and Y engine families.

Currently, a number of automobile manufacturers—Citroën, Daewoo, Fiat, Ford, Hyundai, Opel/Vauxhall, Peugeot, Renault, Saab, Toyota and Volvo-have OEM bi-fuel models that will run equally well on both LPG and gasoline. Vialli has OEM LPG-powered scooters and LPG-powered mopeds that run equally well on LPG.

LPG is popular in Australia (due to it being less than half the price of gasoline), with the four major local manufacturers (Ford, Holden, Mitsubishi and Toyota) offering it in some models of their locally made large family sedans. All are "dual fuel" vehicles, with the exception of Ford, whose Falcon LPG model (the engine is called the E-Gas) runs on LPG only. LPG is especially popular with taxis, with a large number of Australian cabs (typically Ford Falcons) being LPG-fuelled.

This particular type of fuel also enjoys great popularity in The Netherlands, Italy, Serbia, Poland and Korea. However, Armenia, a former Soviet republic, may be the world leader in LPG use. The Armenian Transport Ministry estimates as much as 20 to 30 percent of vehicles use LPG compared to traditional gasoline, once again due to the fact that it offers a very cheap alternative to both diesel and gasoline, being less than half the price of petrol and some 40-percent cheaper than diesel. (*From wikipedia.com*)



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LPG for cars?

The idea's simmering and ready . . .

From page N1

dering: "We need LPG on our cars, too. So why doesn't any installer come knocking at our doors?"

Owners of old BMWs, Benzes and other European cars can pin their hopes on a small research company based in Mandaluyong and Makati that has taken on the task of addressing the needs of a few thousand such owners.

Electromex, probably the only local LPG conversion company that caters to the more upscale Benz and BMW owners and even classic cars, uses state-of-the-art close loop oxygen sensor monitoring devices for the correct air and fuel mixture for all Benzes.

Its system caters to the old-generation Bosch kjetronic systems popular among the 123, 124, 190, 126, 116, 107 and 70s and 80s Volkswagens and BMWs. The installation is straightforward, but takes almost a day to install. Electromex customizes every installation job, thereby assuring every client a worry-free conversion.

For just P60,000, a conversion to LPG, according to Electromex, ensures the owner of "no engine stalling, misfiring, and flooding forever". Furthermore, Electromex also assures that owners would need no oil changes for the next 10,000 km, no need to buy fuel pumps or fuel filters, or even replacement injectors.

At P24 per liter (versus the P40 or so for regular unleaded gasoline), the cost savings are obvious

The only drawback to the LPG fuel system is the obvious lack of LPG "refilling" stations in Metro Manila, let alone the rest of the country. But then again, Electromex gets around this problem by retaining the old gasoline lines of the converted sedan (thus, the system could be called "dual"). So, if ever motorists run out of LPG in the middle of the road, no sweat. A flick of a switch shifts combustion back to the old gasoline system.

Owners may also feel a slight sluggishness in power in the LPG mode, but then again, according to the installers at Electromex, who can run like a Formula 1 driver anyway in the middle of rush hour city traffic?

At P24 per liter (versus the P40 or so for regular unleaded gasoline), the cost savings are obvious. And though the 60-liter LPG tank may take up half the trunk space, the safety aspect is quite assured, attests Electromex. The myth of the sedan exploding after a rear-end collision remains a myth.

Ready for the switch? Call Electromex at 531-6782 and 535-9069. (*With a report from Giby Yalung and excerpts from wikipedia.com*)

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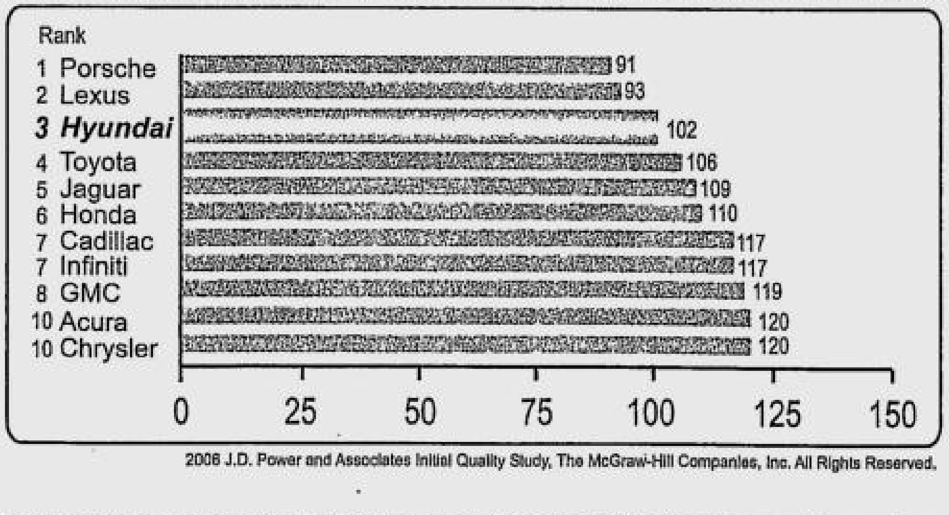

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Honda's 'Extra Easy' promo for September

THIS SEPTEMBER, HONDA CARS PHILIPPINES Inc offers CRV and City buyers an "extra" special treat. It comes with free gasoline coupons or free car accessories worth P5,000. CRV Select cash buyers get free comprehensive Honda VIP Insurance. The Honda Value Insurance Program offers premier car insurance coverage and comprehensive roadside assistance service to give valued Honda owners peace of mind and security on all their travel needs.

In addition, owning a Honda has been made "easy" with several payment schemes to choose from. Honda buyers can pay through low monthly installment schemes for as low as P6,411 per month for a Honda City and P11,024 for a Honda CRV Select. Other schemes include low downpayment plans with initial downpayment of as low as 15 percent.

Check out "Extra Easy" options that suite you best. With this "Extra Easy" promo, Honda gives customers more value for their money with its two best sellers, the CRV and the City.

Honda doesn't just provide excellent service and quality cars to its customers. Part of the corporate adage is to enjoy selling too. The offers bolster satisfaction and joy to Honda and to its customers.

For more information on Honda, its products and the ongoing promo that runs until Sept. 30 only, visit your nearest Honda dealer or log on to www.hondaphil.com.

Sinski Philippines: Extending a helping hand to Filipinos

WHILE SOME FILIPINOS LIVE IN DREAMS, others strive hard to change their lives for the better. However, there are several factors which could still suppress their chance of attaining this objective. Thus, many become hopeless and let the system frustrate them. Eventually they let go.

With this kind of setup, more families tend to suffer and make sacrifices with the little that they have. That's why most Filipinos turn to a chance of a lifetime, hoping that someday soon, someone who understands their plight would extend a helping hand.

Sinski Motorcycle Philippines values the spirit of sharing and helping Filipinos. As such, it has discovered a perfect scheme to realize the objective of reaching out to the less-privileged sector of the society: giving away motorcycles.

Sinski management found the perfect partner in ABS-CBN's daily noontime show Wowowee to fulfill a good deed as it contributes happiness to the less-privileged Filipinos.

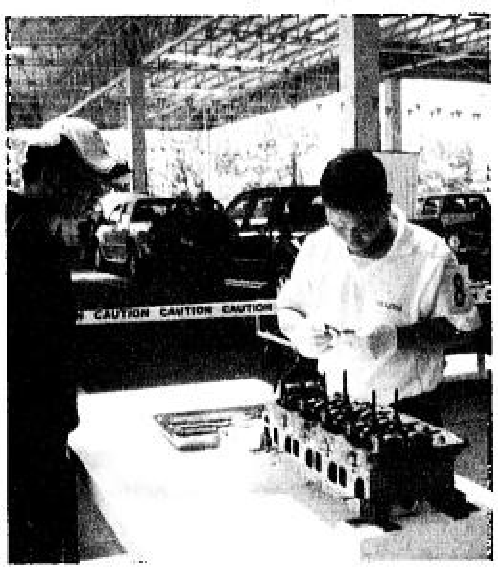
That's why Sinski Philippines is so eager to share their products in terms of helping the show as one of the prize sponsors.

"Wowowee chose Sinski as a prize provider because of the willingness of Sinski management to help give the masa a chance to have a better life. Their noble gesture and their sincerity to help Filipinos is truly admirable," according to Willie.

Anthony Chua, president of Sinski Philippines Inc stated that Willie and the show is the perfect venue for the company's efforts to help spread the opportunity of a better life for the Filipinos. "The personality of Willie and the mandate of Wowowee to help poor Filipinos was perfect for us. I really appreciate Willie for choosing Sinski, and that choice helped our company a lot in terms of projecting our image to more Filipinos, especially in the countryside."

Willie and Wowowee hope that Sinski Philippines would continue its support for the show. They've recognized the sincere support given by Sinski in helping Filipinos.

Isuzu Philippines holds service skills Olympics



SERIOUS IN ITS CAMPAIGN TO BOOST CUSTOMER satisfaction and improve its after-sales service, Isuzu Philippines Corp staged the Isuzu Service Skills Olympics in the country recently at IPC's sprawling facility in Biñan, Laguna. All 19 accredited dealerships of Isuzu nationwide sent a service technician each to represent them in this event.

It is not surprising at all that a company whose vehicles, namely the Alterra SUV, the D-Max pickup, and the Crosswind AUV, have been named "People's Choices" in a recent consumer poll by Petron Xtra Unleaded Auto Focus People's Choice Awards. IPC wants to endear itself not just to first-time vehicle buyers but more so to long-time Isuzu vehicle owners. And IPC acknowledges that one of the ways to keep customers is to provide them with unparalleled and world-class after-sales service.

The skills Olympics was a two-day event, with the first day devoted to written examination and the second to practical application comprising of on-vehicle diagnostics and component inspection.

Magno Atanoc of Isuzu Alabang emerged grand champion after topping both the written examination and practical applications, while Mat Gregor Bragado of Isuzu Pasig wound up first runner-up and Eric Manalo of Isuzu Cavite, meanwhile, finished second runner-up.

Special awards were given to Jonathan de los Reyes of Isuzu Edsa and Juanito Ancheta Jr of Isuzu Commonwealth.

Global Isuzu officers were on hand to witness the affair, including Yasushi Kusaka, Isuzu Motors Limited's executive in-charge of parts and service; Katsuhiro Koizumi, IML's group leader of service marketing; and representatives from Isuzu Motors Asia in Singapore.

"Isuzu Motors Limited has full support of this project and has complete faith in the competence of Filipino technicians," declared Kusaka. "I am very proud to learn that starting this year, the Isuzu Service Skills Olympics will be a yearly event in the Philippines to fulfill our goal of ensuring that all technicians of IPC and its dealerships are just as good as their counterparts in other countries."

Atanoc and Bragado will fly to Kawasaki, Japan, in November to represent the Philippines in the first Isuzu Asia Oceania Technical Competition, which is to be participated in by 13 countries, including Japan, Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam, Malaysia, New Zealand, Australia, China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Sri Lanka, and Singapore.

Once again, IPC has championed the Filipino spirit while also showing its unwavering commitment to customer service. No wonder Filipino consumers have embraced Isuzu and its vehicles as part of their national culture.

Safe, sound,and clean: Better driving for clean air

PARTICIPANTS from Don Bosco Youth Center navigate the make-believe city during the USAid-Ecap traffic and road safety game held at Don Bosco, Tondo Aug. 15. The make-believe city came complete with traffic signs and traffic cops; as well as establishments like schools, offices, malls, and hospitals; and, not the least, other participants acting as pedestrians and motorists.

METRO MANILA'S LESS THAN ideal traffic situation tends to foster an attitude of "to each one's own" among drivers. With the everyday chaos created by the perennial traffic jam, unruly drivers, and polluted streets, motorists learn to drive through the roads each day armed with a grim look and single-minded determination to just get their way and reach their destination in the shortest possible time.

Unfortunately, these conditions do not necessarily create good and responsible drivers. In addition to flaring tempers and accidents, unruly driving habits also contribute to inefficient vehicle performance and heightened vehicle emissions. The result is that the streets of Metro Manila are filled with smoke-belching vehicles and their surly drivers.

"There are an estimated 1.5 million vehicles in Metro Manila, and they can contribute to as much as 70 percent of carbon emissions in the city. Good driving habits and road discipline lead to increased fuel efficiency, which in turn, result to lesser emissions and therefore, cleaner air", said Arlene Donaire, Deputy Chief of Party of the United States Agency for International Development-Energy and Clean Air Project (USAid-Ecap).

Campaigning for responsible driving habits and fuel efficiency is one of the ways by which USAid-Ecap promotes its advocacy for Clean Air. Aiming to illustrate this concept in a fun and unique way, the project organized a traffic and road safety game, which was participated in by students of the Don Bosco Youth Center and the community members of Tondo, Manila.

Wheeling around a make-believe city in pedicabs simulating cars, the contestants were given road maps and a course route taking them to 10 destinations. The make-believe city came complete with traffic signs and traffic cops; as well as establishments like schools, offices, malls, and hospitals; and, not the least, other participants acting as pedestrians and motorists. The contestants' mission was to complete the course in the least amount of time with the least number of traffic infractions. It's a mission that's easier said than done, as reflected by the state of our streets each day.

In addition to the competing teams, about a thousand Don Bosco students participated in the affair, which also included lectures on driving rules and safety standards. The Western Police District provided policemen to add an authentic touch to the driving situations presented during the game. The panel of judges was composed of representatives from the Land Transportation Office (LTO), Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA), and Don Bosco Youth Center. The MMDA also provided the traffic signs for a more authentic traffic environment, while Pepsi Cola Products Philippines provided drinks to the students who participated in the event. Yahoo also lent its support to the event by way of providing tokens/prizes to the participants.

In his opening remarks, Rev. Fr. Ferdinand Camilo, rector of Don Bosco Youth Center, mentioned that "clean air is a result of the fulfillment of our duties and obligations as citizens". Fr. Camilo stressed that "It can never be the result of laws or enforcement alone. Having good driving habits and road behavior can contribute to clean air, and it will not even cost us anything".

Ramon Santiago, Director for Public Safety of the Metro Manila Development Authority, summed up the value of the activity by saying, "To be able to improve our present state of traffic situation and provide an impact on the clean air campaign, we should start teaching our children, while their values and habits are still being formed in school and society, the importance of observing proper road behavior. This may be taught through creative approaches such as the traffic and road safety game in schools, wherein students will learn to appreciate traffic rules and regulations in a fun but educational way."

Ecap hopes that the competition will be adopted by other schools and replicated across the country.

Volvo tuning

VOLVO OWNERS NOW HAVE AN ALTERNATIVE venue for the repair, maintenance and upgrade of their Swedish delights, Habrec Enterprises.

Operated and managed by Volvo enthusiast Wendell Habaluyas, he believes that the Swedish brand always had a following in the Philippines but present owners and prospecting clients are cautious due to the absence of independent Volvo parts and servicing provider. "Habrec Enterprises was established to be a full service company that will cater to all Volvo owners; offering everything from aftermarket maintenance parts to specialized tuning and services-and of course, topped by ultimate customer satisfaction," states Wendell.

With its utmost dedication to the Swedish brand, Habrec is also the local distributor for Heico Sportiv, the world's foremost authority for high performance Volvo. Heico's line of performance parts and products range from alloy wheels; engine ECU upgrades; sport exhaust systems; high-flow air filters; aerodynamic enhancers and much more.

Founded in 1995 just outside of Frankfurt, Germany, Heico has grown to become Europe's leading Volvo tuning firm. Heico has the longest running history of endurance racing featuring Volvo cars, which serves as an engineering basis for offering high-quality components for Volvo road cars.

For inquiries on how to transform your Volvo into a visual candy on the road, visit Habrec Enterprises at 138 N. Domingo Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City call hotline 0922- 8-HABREC, or at 724-6640/410-2997, or e-mail habrec@gmail.com.

SPARKO X5, THE ALL-IN-ONE LUBRICANT

The all-new Sparko High Tech X5 All-In-One Lube does the job fast. It provides lubrication while protecting against rust and corrosion, and penetrates deeply to loosen stuck parts like nuts, bolts, and valves. It repels and seals out moisture to start wet motors and engines. It eliminates squeaks from hinges, beltings, and other moving parts. It cleans and dissolves tar, grease and adhesive. The X5's industrial strength formulation is perfect for automotive, construction, hardware, commercial and household applications. For more inquiries, call Monroe Marketing Co Inc at 254-9256, 254-9261 or 253-1239, or e-mail monroe@monroe.com.ph.

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ALL-IN-ONE LUBE

CATS Motors, Inc.
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11 September 2

THE PENINSULA MANILA GETS BRAND NEW S-CLASS FLEET

Recently, The Peninsula Manila held a contract-signing with CATS Motors Inc, the exclusive distributor of Mercedes-Benz cars in the country, as the official limousine fleet supplier of The Peninsula Manila. The hotel's new fleet will be made up of Mercedes-Benz's top model, The S-Class, further making The Peninsula Manila the only hotel in the region fully equipped to provide first-class limousine comfort for its prestigious clientele. The 9th generation S-Class is considered to be the luxury car benchmark. It has consistently been voted the world's number one in the luxury car segment. Nissan Car Lease Philippines Inc is set to manage the limousine service for The Peninsula Manila. Seated from left are Nissan Car Lease Philippines Inc president Luis Banson; CATS Motors Inc president Felix Ang; The Peninsula Manila's general manager David Batchelor, and resident manager Charles Morris.

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Honda Cars Pasig	Tel. No.: (02) 6342730, Fax No.: 6372982
Honda Cars Quezon City, Inc.	Tel. Nos.: (02) 7120850 to 61, Fax No.: 7328559
Honda Cars Shaw	Tel. No.: (02) 7171681, Fax No.: 7257673
Honda Cars Manila	Tel. No.: (02) 5624548, Fax No.: 5647338
Honda Cars Fairview	Tel. Nos.: (02) 9352655, 9352817, Fax No.: 9357864
Honda Cars Marikina	Tel. Nos.: (02) 9426202, 6960512, Fax No.: 9423561

Provincial

Honda Cars Laguna, Inc.	Tel. Nos.: (049) 5627713 to 14, Fax No.: (049) 5627712
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Honda Cars Cebu, Inc.	Tel. No.: (032) 2313502, Fax No.: (032) 2314488
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Honda Cars Cagayan De Oro	Tel. Nos.: (088) 8584010 to 12, Fax No.: (088) 8584015
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Honda Cars Mandaue	Tel. No.: (032) 4223700, Fax No.: (032) 4223600
Honda Cars Isabela, Inc.	Tel. No.: (078) 6521245, Fax No.: (078) 6521248
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Honda Cars Iloilo	Tel. Nos.: (033) 508-8400, 508-8522, Fax No.: (033) 320-7703

MVP on Benedictine leadership

MVP: The Benedictine values of ora et labora is applicable even in today's fast-paced living.

BELIEVING MUCH IN THE POTENTIALS of the Filipino youth in bringing the country to even greater heights, Manuel V. Pangilinan, top honcho of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co and Smart Philippines, has taken a personal crusade to reach out, share wisdom, and interact with the young about the essentials of good leadership.

Recently, MVP engaged in an interactive dialogue, this time with the students and alumni of his alma mater-San Beda College (Grade School '58 and High School '62) during its inaugural Benedictine Leadership Forum. This academic exercise initiated by the San Beda College Alumni Association aims to provide a more profound understanding of what Benedictine leadership is all about and how it applies to the modern world. The forum serves as an appropriate venue where Bedans who have made a difference as outstanding leaders in their respective workplace, home, society and global world could share their stories, experience and reflections on Benedictine leadership.

In his remarks, Pangilinan presented his views on leadership and governance against the backdrop of family, education and work. He started his talk by sharing his humble beginnings, saying that during his student days in San Beda, he had only ten centavos to buy a softdrink, five cents for crackers and another ten cents to take the bus home from Legarda to San Juan, making sure that he wouldn't lose them, otherwise, he would have to walk home. His early life then, according to MVP, "meant coping with challenges despite modest means, relying on God-given talent, hard work and a passionate determination to succeed."

Benedictine Rule of Leadership

MVP traced the roots of leadership and corporate governance to the time of St. Benedict of Nursia, founder of the Benedictine order, the religious congregation administering San Beda College. He explained that the Benedictine Rule of Leadership is a model of effective leadership that stands the test of time. MVP noted that it was "St. Benedict who introduced a new concept of work-by suggesting that work enhanced spirituality and spirituality enhanced work." Thus, the Benedictine values of ora et labora (to work is to pray) is applicable even in today's fast-paced living. Pangilinan further cited that order, discipline, excellence and community spirit were the principles that vitalize the rule of St. Benedictine. To this day, he continues to cherish and practice the enduring qualities of his Benedictine education, finding expression in old-fashioned values of discipline, integrity, passion for excellence, hard work and prayer.

From his long and rich business experience, MVP learned that one could succeed by practicing ethical behavior. He cites: "The story of First Pacific, the company I founded-and that of PLDT, which is one of our major investments and now the most profitable company in the Philippines, rests in the fundamental conviction that you can succeed by 'doing the right thing'-even in a difficult milieu like the Philippines." MVP believes that all business enterprises carry an impact to society because of its size and influence. He added: "Business must carry with it the collateral measure of responsibility and accountability to people ... if business exists only to make the highest possible profits, nothing prevents the rich from getting richer, and the poor from getting poorer. Any business that grows but, in the process, leaves the rest of society behind, deepens the social pressures that will ultimately lead to its own decay and death."

In this rare interactive dialogue with Bedans who are mostly business and liberal arts students, MVP said that "success springs from old-fashioned values-permanent and enduring values that transcend the context and circumstances of our time ... values as basic as being honest and truthful-especially with oneself. Values that are as fundamental as working hard, playing fair and doing no harm to others."

'Old-fashioned values'

He added: "At First Pacific and PLDT, we believe in old-fashioned values, and in the ethical behavior by which we practice them. We know that the growth of our companies can only be sustained in the long run by treating people our customers, shareholders, employees-justly and well. We've created a corporate culture that promotes an open and honest style. We encourage people to speak up-freely and without fear. By being transparent, we're sometimes subject to criticism-but, by and large, transparency promotes humility and, in fact, a stronger sense of security. After all, truth is easier to explain. Openness breeds fresh ideas and enables our organization to renew its vigor when needed. The ability to relate and communicate is importance to us. We don't like surprises."

MVP stressed further: "Ethics for us is not just a personal matter ... Ethics in business must permeate the entire organization: It must affect values, attitudes, benefits, behavior and even language."

In closing, MVP challenged the youth to make a difference in the world. His challenge: "Do something great. Sometime in the future, I want to hear some incredible things you've done ... Be brave. Be bold. Be real ... take a stand for what's right. Make a change: you may not always be popular, but you'll be part of something larger and greater than yourself. The future lies wide open for you. Granted, you're entering a pretty screwed up world. Many in my generation dared to dream and fight and risk in order to succeed. You should do no less, so just do it."

Looking ahead, there should be no doubt that Manny V. Pangilinan will continue to inspire the youth and the generations to come with his principled Benedictine leadership; his significant contribution to the growth and progress of Philippine business; and the greatness of spirit shown in his service to San Beda College, country and God.

Be a corporate diplomat, know your protocol

HOW DO YOU HOST A DINNER FOR foreign business delegates? What are the right procedures in signing and ribbon-cutting ceremonies or product launches? At a formal affair, what is the order of precedence among government officials, diplomats and business executives? What administrative preparations are done for official visits of foreign dignitaries? Is your spouse an asset or a liability when taken along to official functions?

These are some situations that business owners, top-level executives and those in senior management routinely encounter but may not always know how to address. The answers may not necessarily be found in your standard etiquette book because these involve matters of protocol, which refers to "forms and customary courtesies observed in international acts" or is, simply put, "the code of international politeness." At a time of globalization and increasing competitiveness, one of the best ways an individual can differentiate himself is in how he relates to the business community and a variety of people, from colleagues, customers, stakeholders and the general public to dignitaries and even royalty. After all, a person's conduct is as much a reflection of his personal value system as the corporate culture he works in, and thus the company he represents. Knowledge of protocol, and the specific procedures involved in its execution, gives business people polish and a distinctive edge that can transform them into corporate diplomats.

The Center for Global Best Practices (telephone numbers 842-7148 and 59 and website www.cgbp.org) will be holding a pioneering seminar titled "Best Practices in Protocol for Business Advantage" on Friday, Oct. 6 at The Conservatory, Peninsula Manila, Makati City. The program will feature two lecturers from the Department of Foreign Affairs who are both career diplomats: Honorable Adelio S. Cruz, deputy chief of protocol and lawyer Noel Fernandez III, 1994 bar topnotcher and lecturer of the Foreign Service Institute. This pioneering one-day program has extracted best practices from the foreign service course and has been uniquely designed to teach participants the whats and how tos of protocol in business without having to undergo rigorous four-year training that foreign service students do to learn the same things. Topics to be discussed include precedence, ceremonies, agreation, official communications and entertaining, social graces and decorum, etiquette in various business situations, protocol practices in different regions of the world, and how the DFA and Philippine missions overseas can assist in the conduct of business activities.

PANDACAN LINEAR PARK TENNIS CLUB IS 1

The Pandacan Linear Park Tennis Club, an association of tennis-playing residents of Pandacan surrounding the oil terminal complex, celebrated its 1st anniversary Aug. 19 to 21 at the club's playing venue at the newly constructed tennis courts inside the Shell Pandacan Linear Park. Highlights of the anniversary celebration were: 1) A Thanksgiving Mass and blessing of the tennis courts officiated by Fr. Alexander Thomas, a member of the club; 2) An inter-color doubles tournament participated in by members and guests; and; 3) A members' get-together and awarding of trophies to the winners. Incumbent president Ely Del Pilar acknowledges the association's many benefactors: Shell (through Janot Barretto) and PDSI (through Oscar de la Cruz). Shown are club members with Shell's Barretto.

MBCPI: help for start-ups

FIRST, THE GOOD NEWS: IT IS TRUE that the call-enter, telecommunications and software industries are currently enjoying growth. Now, the bad news: other industries are not growing as fast. In these other slow-growth, non-growth and contracting industries, the trend is grim: downsizing, early retirement programs and hiring freezes.

It's no wonder, then, that more people are turning to entrepreneurship in light of the economic situation. But while many would-be moguls have plenty of guts, brains and ideas, most are short on cash for capital expenditures. This is where business centers come in. Business centers offer the entrepreneur the physical amenities required for efficient business operations-at a fraction of the cost of a "stand alone" office. In a business center, the fixed costs of office operations are shared by all tenants, thus creating significantly lower monthly expenses for each tenant.

One business center doing its share in encouraging entrepreneurship in Metro Manila is the Multi-Business Center Philippines Inc, the pioneer business center in the country, according to its founder and managing director Roberto "Bobby" de la Paz. Founded in 1978, MBCPI started out with one secretary and one messenger in a 45-sqm space in a condominium on Perea Street, Legazpi Village, Makati City.

"The Makati business district was new then. Everybody wanted to be in Makati," says De la Paz, explaining his choice of location. In 1994, the center moved to its present, 650-sqm space at the Banco de Oro Plaza on Paseo de Roxas.

MBCPI offers two types of packages: the office package and the business identity package (BIP). The office package is geared for start-ups that require a fully furnished executive room or a modular unit on a monthly rate that covers lease of space, air conditioning, electricity, cleaning services, use of telephone and fax machine. The BIP allows access to basic services such as use of a business address, telephone and fax number and the PO Box address.

Meeting rooms, a 12-seater conference room, e-mail, long distance communications services, postage/courier services, and assistance in business incorporation, licensing, legal and account work are also available for clients. Over-the-counter services include photocopying, computer and electric typewriter rental, and the use of fax machines.

Traveling businessmen and executives representing out-of-town companies and multinationals needing temporary office space also benefit from serviced accommodations. In the early 1990s, MBCPI had Krupp International, Germany's oldest and largest conglomerate which transferred regional offices from Hong Kong to the Philippines; Consist International; and the American Soybean Association as clients. At present, MBCPI houses the local offices of, among others, foreign corporations Giosecke & Devrient Asia Pte Ltd, a German company; RTZ Associates, an American IT outsource company; Intergraph Process & Building Solutions Philippines Inc, a Singaporean entity; Silverlake System Inc, a Malaysian corporation; and El-Mick Enterprises Inc, an Australian consultancy firm. The rest of MBCPI's subscribers are either traders, indenters, expatriates, sales specialists, and professionals.

With the internet creating "virtual offices", and personal digital assistants (PDAs), voice mail and the ubiquitous mobile phone taking over the jobs of receptionists and secretaries, the natural question that pops up is: Does one really need an office in a good address? De la Paz has a ready response: "An entrepreneur trying to win clients needs to project stability and continuity. He needs to be in a prestigious address to create a good image. Anyone can set up shop in his house, but an office in a respectable business district creates a special image. And in today's business game, what the client perceives spells the difference between success and failure."

Bits Clips

Wine all you can at Café Astoria

SPEND ALL YOUR NIGHTS WITH THE GANG AT Café Astoria for the ultimate get-together night-out. Party with your barkada in a wine-all-you-can extravaganza for only P550++ per person. Wine buffet comes with a tasty and mouth-watering pica-pica platter selection. This is available this Friday evening. Astoria Plaza is located at 15 J. Escriva Drive, Ortigas Business District, Pasig City. For inquiries and reservations call 687-1111, or log on to www.astoriaplaza.com. Astoria Plaza is managed with distinction by Genesis Hotels and Resorts Corp.

Training for airline professionals

ONE NEEDS A LOT MORE THAN GOOD LOOKS and a pleasing personality to succeed in the airline industry. Flight attendants and aviation crew are also passengers' lifeline in the skies. Tala Training & Communications provides only the highest standards of technical, service-oriented, and behavioral training that will spell success for aviation professionals and safety for their passengers. Tala offers specialized courses for undergraduates and airline professionals, such as a flight attendants' course, flight dispatchers' course, dangerous goods seminar, as well as customized team building workshops and customer service workshops. Aside from these courses, Tala also offers its students assistance in job placement to its wide network of local and foreign airlines. The next flight attendants' course is set for Oct. 2. For more details, call Myrna Lopez-Terol, training director, at 0918-5965877; Alma Cabagay, marketing director, at 0920-9276471; or Charmaine Ling, technical officer, at 0917-9041579, or log on to http://talatraining.wordpress.com.

Medical Transcription seminar today

THE MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTION (MT) INDUSTRY has evolved into a $23-billion industry in the United States, growing at an annual rate of 10-13 percent. Over $4 billion of this business is outsourced, and the Philippines is fast becoming a favored destination. Entrepreneurs and professionals can find out how to tap into this billion-dollar industry by attending a two-day seminar organized by the ITO Group, an industry pioneer which created the first-ever comprehensive MT training program in the country. The MT Outsourcing Business Seminar is slated for Sept. 29 and 30, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the MTC Academy located at the ground floor, Urban Building, 405 Senator Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City. Interested parties can call (632) 899-6822.

Realty brokers' seminar, review reset

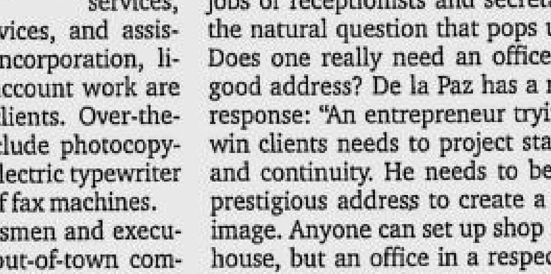
THE SERIES OF SEMINAR AND REVIEW CLASSES to be conducted by Urban Institute of Real Estate in preparation for the forthcoming real estate brokers' licensure examination on Nov. 26 has been reset to the first week of October instead of the last week of September, as announced by Rosalinda Cruz, EVP of Urban. This is in response to the request of participants who could not be able to register for the original schedule. Thus, the new schedule of the Comprehensive Real Estate Seminar (CRES) and review starts Oct 2 and then Oct 9, 16, 23, 30, Nov. 6 and 13, from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Max's Restaurant, Glorietta 2, Makati City. Tuesday afternoon sessions will be on Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24, Nov. 7 and 14 from 1:15 to 6:45 p.m. at Max's Restaurant, Glorietta 2, Makati City. The Saturday afternoon session will be at the same time and venue and will be held on Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28, Nov. 4 and 18, while the Thursday afternoon session will be held at Max's Restaurant at Gateway Mall, Araneta Center, Cubao, Quezon City on Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26, Nov. 9 and 16, same time. For registration details, call the Urban Institute at 681-0928 or 0916-4269174, or e-mail urbanet@pacific.net.ph.

'Treat Kita!' from Wendy's

KNOWN FOR ITS 100-PERCENT PURE HAMBURgers, chicken breast fillet sandwiches, and garden-fresh salads, Wendy's Hamburgers gives a big treat to its customers as it recently launched its "Treat Kita!" card promo together with Coca-Cola.

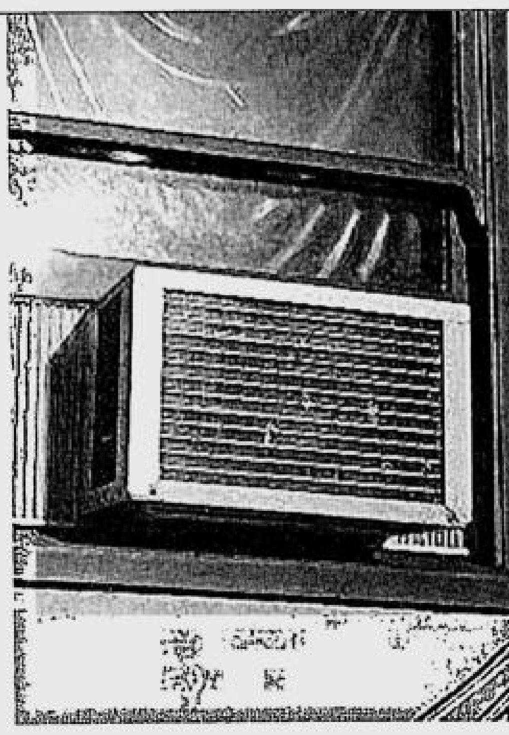
By simply buying at least P100 worth of fresh and tasty food from Wendy's, customers get a card, which would be stamped every time the bearer purchases any of the 3-tier combo meals.

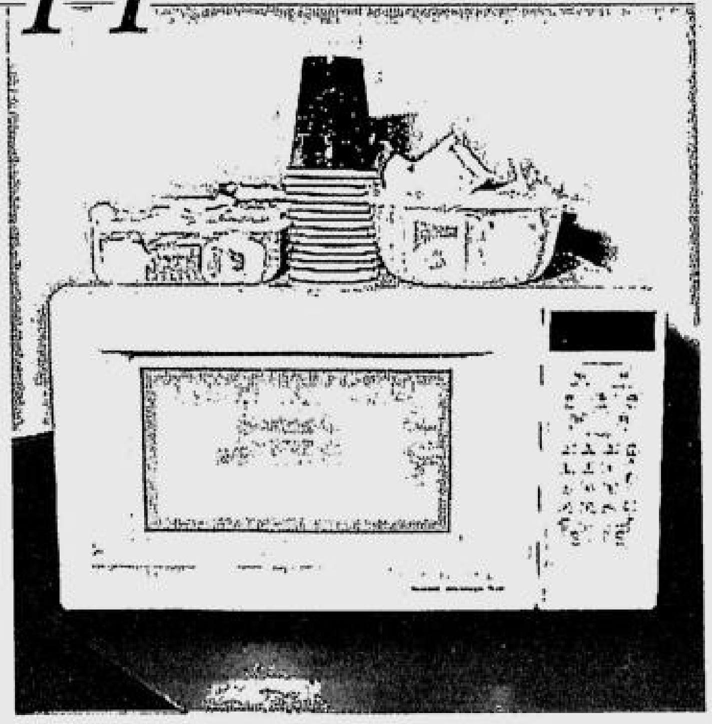
On the second purchase, a Macaroni Side Salad is up for grabs. On the fifth purchase, chill and groove with cool and creamy Frosty. On the eighth purchase, pump up with Chili rice. That is not the end, because on combo purchases after the eighth, the bearer will get either a small Frosty or an upsize on drink and fries free!



Valid for dine-in and take out, customers can enjoy Wendy's "Treat Kita!" in all 39 outlets in Metro Manila and Luzon. Wendy's Treat Kita! Card is honored until December 2006.

High Tech + Practicality = Modern Home Appliances





Domestic technologies cut time for household chores

The surefooted march of technology spares no nook and cranny. Even down to the very level of the simplest domestic chore, innovations have found their way to make the pace of household life ever faster.

Domestic technology is the incorporation of applied science into the home. There are many aspects of domestic technology. On one level, there are domestic appliances and other devices commonly used in the home, such as clothes dryers and washing machines. On another level, domestic technology recognizes the use of applied science to construct homes to achieve a particular goal, such as energy efficiency or self sufficiency.

It has been claimed that domestic technology has led to decreases in the time people spend on household work, although the factual basis of this claim is disputed.

There are many technologies now routinely used around modern homes. Here are some of the more popular ones and the latest technologies applied to them:

Air conditioners - from fatal leaks to enriching air

An air conditioner is an appliance, system, or mechanism designed to extract heat from an area using a refrigeration cycle. In construction, a complete system of heating, ventilation, and air conditioning is referred to as HVAC. Some refer to air conditioner or air conditioning as AC or A/C for short.

The first air conditioners and refrigerators built before 1928 employed toxic gases like ammonia and methyl chloride, which could result in fatal accidents when they leaked. Freon, introduced in 1928, was much safer to use for humans but was later found harmful for the Earth's fragile ozone layer.

The latest air conditioners usually have air sterilization effects, such as those that have germicidal and neutralization benefits.

Clothes dryer - effortless drying

A clothes dryer or tumble dryer is a major household appliance that is used to remove the residual moisture from clothing and other textiles, generally shortly after they are cleaned in a washing or washing/drying machine.

A hand-cranked version of the dryer was created in 1799 by a Frenchman named Pochon. Electric tumble dryers appeared in the 20th century.

Now there are generally two classes of rotating dryers: electric and gas. Both of these refer to the method used to raise the temperature of the air flowing through the drum.

Vacuum cleaner - the robot that 'sucks'

A vacuum cleaner is a device that uses an air pump to create a partial vacuum to suck up dust and dirt, usually from carpeted floors. Most homes with carpeted floors in developed countries possess a domestic vacuum cleaner for cleaning. The dirt is collected by a filtering system or a cyclone for later disposal.

The first hand-powered cleaner using vacuum principles may have been the "Whirlwind", invented in Chicago, Illinois in 1865. The first powered cleaner employing a vacuum was patented by H. Cecil Booth, a British engineer, in 1901. For many years after their introduction, vacuum cleaners remained a luxury item; but after World War II they became ubiquitous among the rising middle classes.

In early 2000-nearly a century after the first powered vacuum cleaner was introduced-several companies developed robotic vacuum cleaners. Some examples are Roomba, Robomaxx, Trilobite

DOMESTIC/ O3

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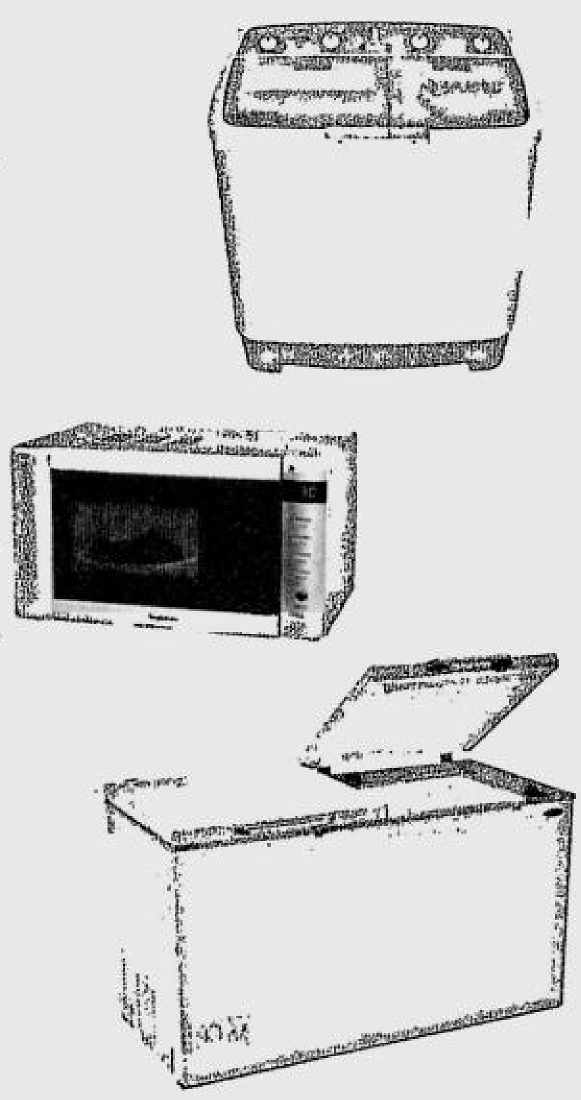
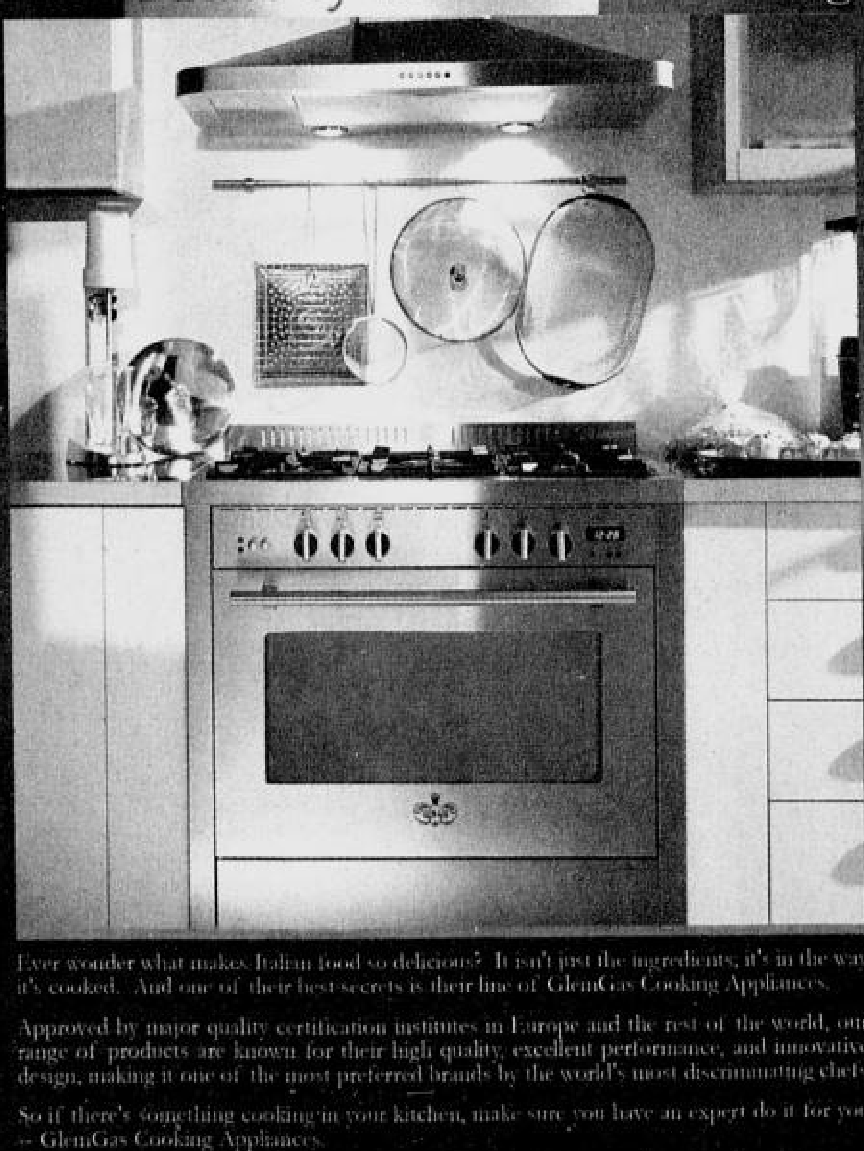


Add A Touch Of Italian To Your Cooking



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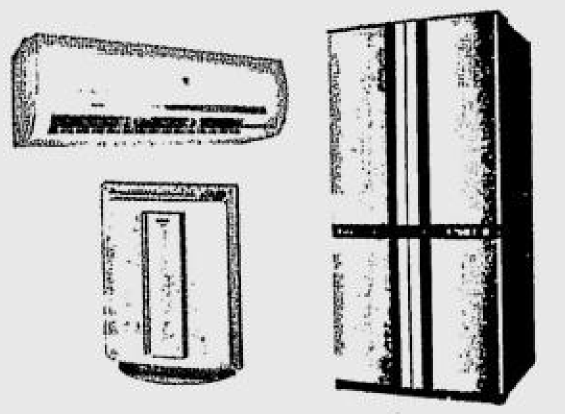
The science and technology in suppressing allergies

DO YOU USUALLY GREET YOUR DAY SUFFERING from excessive sneezing, itchy, watery eyes and a runny nose? Well if you answered yes, then you're probably one of approximately 7 million other Filipinos who are suffering from allergies.

Allergies can gravely affect one's lifestyle and budget. Some have serious allergy attacks that they are forced to stay at home till the allergic reaction subsides, resulting in wasted working hours and consequently, lost productivity and wages.



Fortunately, Sharp is doing something significant in its mission to help everyone lead a better and healthier life. For one thing, the company has developed the revolutionary Plasmacluster Ion technology to help suppress harmful allergens.

Plasmacluster Ion technology removes harmful airborne substances by releasing positive and negative ions into the air. Working in collaboration with research institutions worldwide, Sharp subsequently proved that Plasmacluster Ion can suppress the activities of 26 types of bacteria, mold, fungi, viruses and allergens that are floating in the air.

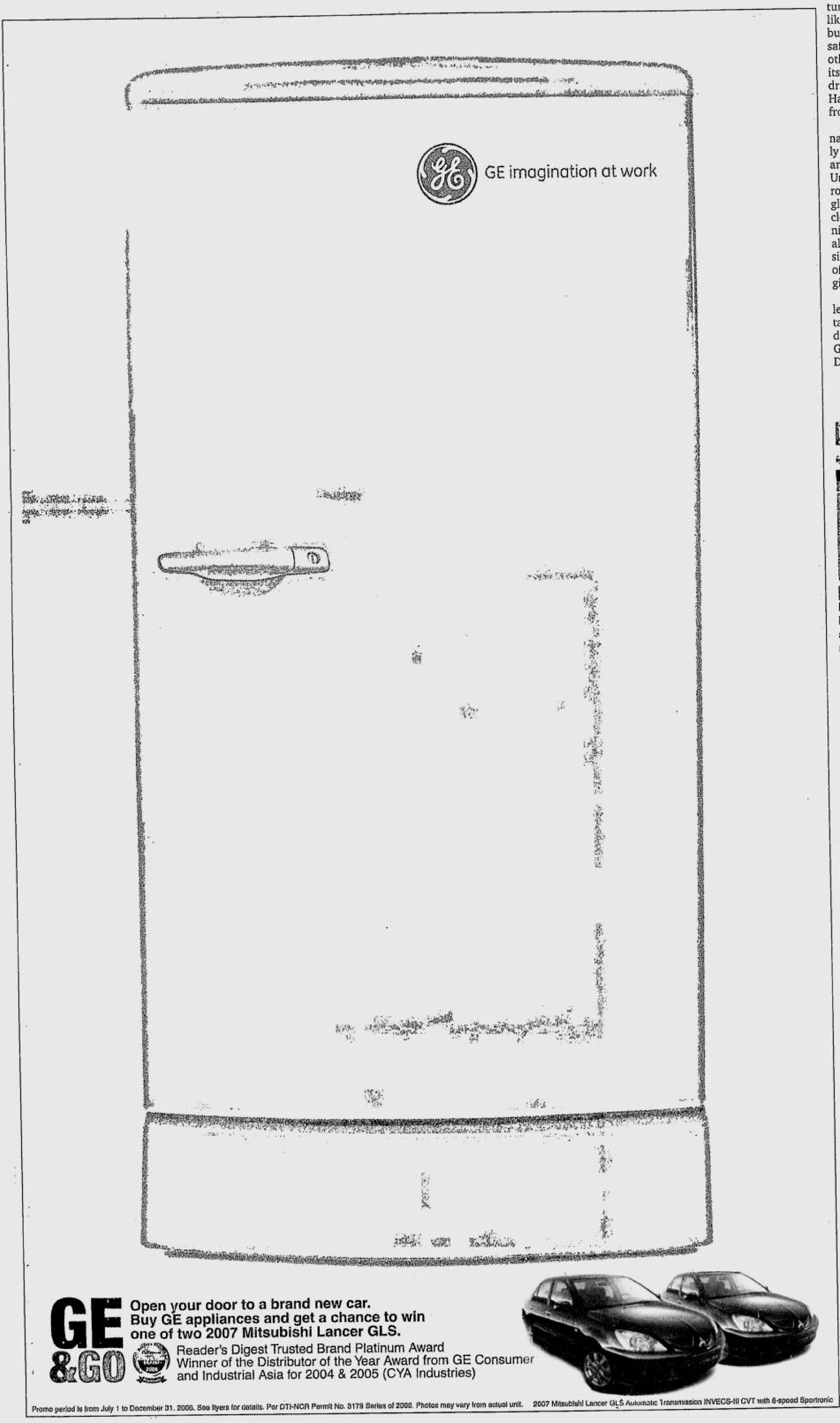
Sharp knows the tremendous benefits that consumers can get from Plasmacluster Ion that's why several of the company's products now feature this truly innovative technology. For instance, Plasmacluster Ion is present in Sharp air-conditioners and air purifiers to ensure that the air we breathe is pure, clean and odor-fee. Plasmacluster Ion can also be enjoyed in Sharp refrigerators, as it keeps foods fresher longer.

How does Plasmacluster Ion technology suppress allergens? Well, a built-in Plasmacluster Ion generator produces positive and negative ions from the water molecules (H2O) and oxygen molecules (O2) in the air. These ions, which have strong germ-killing qualities, are released back into the air.

By themselves, these positive and negative Ions are inherently unstable, but they become stable when they cling to "something." When they encounter airborne germs (like mold spore and viruses) or toxic substances (like tobacco smoke), they form clusters surrounding the offending entity.

At that point, a chemical reaction occurs on the cell membrane surface, and the ions are transformed into OH radicals, a powerful, active but unstable material that robs the harmful substance of a hydrogen (H) atom. As a result, the OH radicals inactivate the harmful substances by severing the protein on the cell membrane, opening the holes. The OH radicals instantly bond with the removed hydrogen, forming water vapor and return to the air.

Indeed, Sharp's Plasmacluster Ion technology is yet another testament to Sharp's noble commitment to "bring well-being to both people and nature."



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Smart Gadget: Take insect control at home to a new level

EVEN ON QUIET NIGHTS AT HOME, ONE can't be assured of a relaxing peaceful sleep with the sudden attacks of annoying flying bugs, insects, and mosquitoes. And with the rainy months, it's definitely a busy season for bugs and mosquitoes. Specially with the onslaught of the Dengue-carrying mosquito, the Aedes Aegypti. This silent killer being a very intelligent and domesticated species relies totally on man for its meal and is known to live within or close-by human dwellings. It often bites indoors or in sheltered areas near the house, biting predominantly by day in shaded areas and may also occur early in the night. It attacks from underneath or behind, usually from below desks or chairs and generally at the feet and ankles.

It's the perfect time for trying out Stinger's Nosquito, indoor flying insect trap. It captures a variety of insects inside your homes like mosquitoes, flies, fruit flies, moths, lady bugs, etc. The Nosquito is easy to use and safe to operate. It captures mosquitoes and other flying insects indoors by luring it with its special fluorescent UV light, while a fan draws them to a non-escapable catch tray. Harmful insects are then left to dehydrate from the air flow.

Often, mosquitoes may breed and hibernate inside your homes. The Nosquito is highly effective in controlling various outbreaks and performs best when used continuously. Unlike other insect control products it is environmental friendly, since it uses no zaps, glues or poisons, making it effective, safe, and clean. Its stylish form also looks great on furniture, shelves, and even on the floor. Most of all its quiet operation, making it virtually silent lets you do the job without the hassles of disturbing zaps and annoying scents, to give you that peace of mind at home.

Available at all True-Value stores and selected Handyman outlets. For inquiries, contact our authorized distributors at Ariston/Indesit Showrooms: Shangri-La (631-8282), Glorietta 4 (815-8429), and at the MC Home Depot, Fort Bonifacio(815-8875).

FORM and function come together in this Nosquito indoor insect control. Perfect for any part of your home for that peaceful relaxing time with friends and family.

Protect your kids from dengue for P1 an hour

A BEAUTIFUL HOME IS NOT ENOUGH-IT IS also where we keep safe our kids from harmful elements that may threaten their health. And with the high rate of dengue cases nowadays, a mother can't help but worry of how safe her kids are against this deadly disease, even in her own home.

The Bug Off Insect Repelling Wristband's secret formulated aroma helps keep those deadly mosquitoes away. It has no DEET, no chemical-based insecticide, thus no side effects-it is safe, non-toxic, and makes use of plant oil-based ingredients such as citronella, lemon grass, and geranial. It uses no spray-there's nothing to apply. It's just easy-to-use wearable protection. The coiled band is fashionable and easy to keep and put on. It's non-greasy-it will not stain. It's waterproof, and oil does not rub off. And it's great for outdoor as well as indoor use. Its long-lasting-reusable container preserves the scent for up to 180 hours.

There are three models available-for kids, adults, and a glow-in-the-dark variant. The real best deal here is it lets you save up on cost without sacrificing quality for only P180 lasting as much as 22 days on an 8-hour daily use.

Look for Bug-Off at True-Value stores and selected National Bookstore outlets. It's also available at Ariston/Indesit showrooms: Shangri-La (631-8282), Glorietta 4 (815-8429), and at the MC Home Depot, Fort Bonifacio (815-8875).

Are you compatible with your gadget?

LISTEN UP, CYBERCITIZENS! FOR the past years, you seem to be befuddled by the dilemma of whether the computer you bought is right for you, or if it performed according to your expectations. Just like in technology, compatibility is the name of the game, and fortunately, Acer answers the compatibility question with the right products.

Whether making Power Point presentations or financial reports using Excel, or slugging it out with your friends playing online games in the school's corridor while waiting for your next class, Acer Philippines has got the right PC for all you PC junkies. Power, speed, quality, affordability, and innovation-the criteria of compatibility that makes Acer products fit just right into every cyberwarrior's hands.

For corporate cyber geeks, Acer TravelMate and Aspire notebook computers would come in handy, whether on the road during power lunches-cum-business meetings or inside the boardroom wowing top management with phenomenal presentations. With the new Intel Core Duo technology that's great for wireless computing packed inside these babies, plus a host of other features like OrbiCam, Grid Vista, Acer Empowering Technology, the Acer TravelMate and Aspire would really make multi-tasking, a must ability for the new generation corporate denizen, as simple as singing "Incy-Wincy Spider." Word, Excel, Power Point, video conferencing, email, VoIP call, Gunbound/Star Craft, you name it, the Acer TravelMate and Aspire notebooks treat them as piece of cake.

Don't forget the Acer Ferrari. For those who want F1 championship performance coupled with trademark Ferrari toughness, this baby is for you. Its red-and-black titanium-strength body exudes power to complement its superb features that only Acer can incorporate in its products.

The same goes for classroom jocks that want to redefine the study habits of the modern student of the new millenium. Their predecessors carried paper-based notebooks, them lugging Acer Aspire notebook computers.

Even households or small businesses won't be spared by the Acer computer juggernaut with the Acer series of powerful desktops. Whether with Celeron or Pentium 4 processors, these are remarkable thingamajigs nothing short of truly amazing. Also coming with the desktop version of the Aspire and the Acer FG series for commercial use, the Acer line has another ace up its sleeve: the Veriton.

Packed with Pentium 4 think-tanks and patented PCI Express technology, multi-media applications will now be performed even faster. Carrying Acer Empowering Technology found in their notebook siblings that comes with patented Acer eLock, eSetting, and eRecovery features, Acer desktops are definitely good buys for the desktop dwellers. Definitely, these features truly match what households and commercial users have been longing for.

But hey, let's not forget the other quality Acer products in its lineup. Though they may not be PCs, they most surely contribute to the aesthetic beauty and physical attributes of their brothers. Acer flat monitors, for example, are products of exemplary engineering and creative work, stylishly sleek and visually vibrant.

As for the Acer projectors like the PD100, PD523 and PD322with DLP (Digital Light Processing) technology, these light and ultra portable projectors that weigh in at an impossibly light 2.4 kilos or even 1 kilo, come in handy during out-of-the-office meetings and presentations, and can even be used as part of your home theater setup for a more cinematic and movie theater-like viewing pleasure.

And to ensure that you get quality products and parts, buy only from authorized Acer resellers. Definitely, this is one company that knows what being compatible is all about.

Panasonic centers now with minivans

EIGHT PANASONIC SERVICE CENTERS IN METRO Manila and the Visayas now have their own minivans to use in providing service to customers.

This is after Panasonic Philippines recently equipped them with white Suzuki multicab vans to enable them to pick up and deliver electronic appliances and air con units to customers.

Panasonic Philippines president Rene Almeda said the minivans were recently turned over to Panasonic authorized service centers and authorized air con specialists in Metro Manila and the Visayas.

"This is Panasonic's way of showing support to our service centers and our commitment to quality service to our customers," Almeda said.

The turnover of the minivans is part of the support program of Panasonic's customer service department to service centers. Through a low-interest loan, any Panasonic service center that has been supporting Panasonic for the past two years could have their own minivan to use in their operation.

Those service centers in Metro Manila that have received their own minivans were the AB-Aire Specialists in Parañaque (two vans), the RDR Luxaire Engineering in Las Piñas, and the Napaaire Aircon and Electrical Services also in Las Pinas. They received their vans from Almeda and customer service manager Henry Malantic in a simple ceremony at the company's plant in Taytay, Rizal.

The service centers in the Visayas that now have their own vans are Jayme Electronics and Northern Current Appliance, both in Cebu; Plaza Service Shop in Tagbilaran, Bohol; Dessert Refrigeration and Aircon in Catbalogan, Samar; and Alde Electronics in Borongan, Eastern Samar. They got their vans in Cebu City from regional manager Alfredo Roxas and service in-charge Panpilo Pono.

PANASONIC president Rene Almeda (center) leads the turnover of Panasonic service center minivans.

JVC HARD DISK CAMCORDER

The JVC Everio G offers a sleek, cutting-edge alternative to common camcorders in the market. Palm-sized and weighing less than 1 pound, Everio G has a built in disk-drive in 20 or 30 gigabytes (for several hours of high quality video recording), freeing the user from numerous tapes and discs. Innovative features like the built-in free fall sensor and advanced polymer shock absorbers are elegantly added to protect your hard disc data during acceleration or free fall situation.

Domestic

From page O1

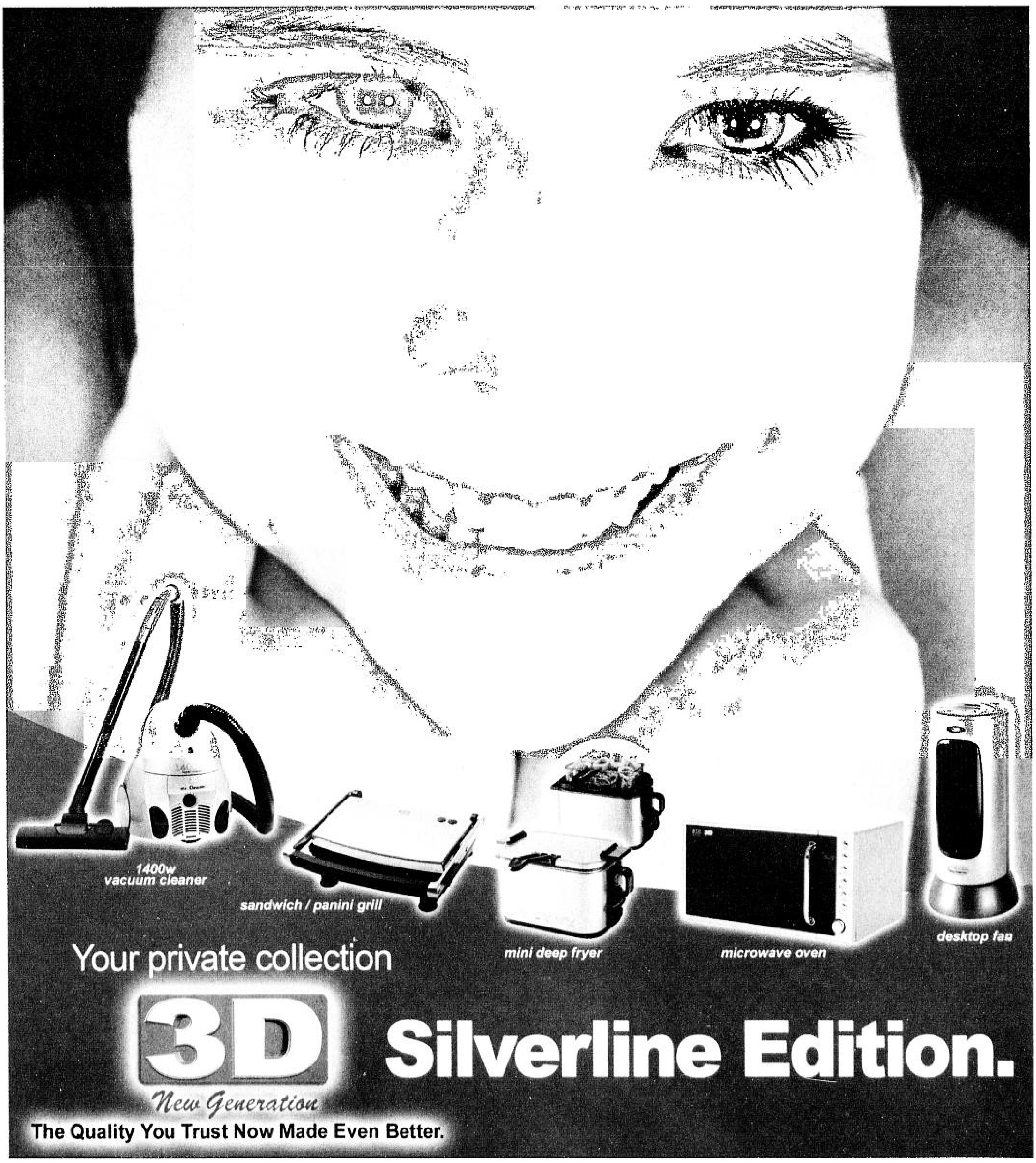
and FloorBot. Although most do not create a vacuum for cleaning, these machines propel themselves in patterns across a floor, cleaning surface dust and debris into their dustbin. They usually can navigate around furniture and find their recharging stations.

Microwave oven - heavyweight discovery to portable superstar

A microwave oven, or microwave, is a kitchen appliance employing microwave radiation primarily to cook or heat food. Microwave ovens have revolutionized food preparation since their use became widespread in the 1970s.

Cooking food with microwaves was discovered by Percy Spencer while building magnetrons for radar sets at Raytheon. On Oct. 8, 1945, Raytheon filed a patent for Spencer's microwave cooking process and in 1947, the company built the first microwave oven, the Radarange, which was almost 6 feet tall and weighed 750 pounds.

Today, the modern microwave oven has evolved into a radically smaller and more lightweight kitchen appliance with the amazing power to convert that frozen dinner into a steaming hot supper in a matter of seconds. *(From wikipedia.com)*



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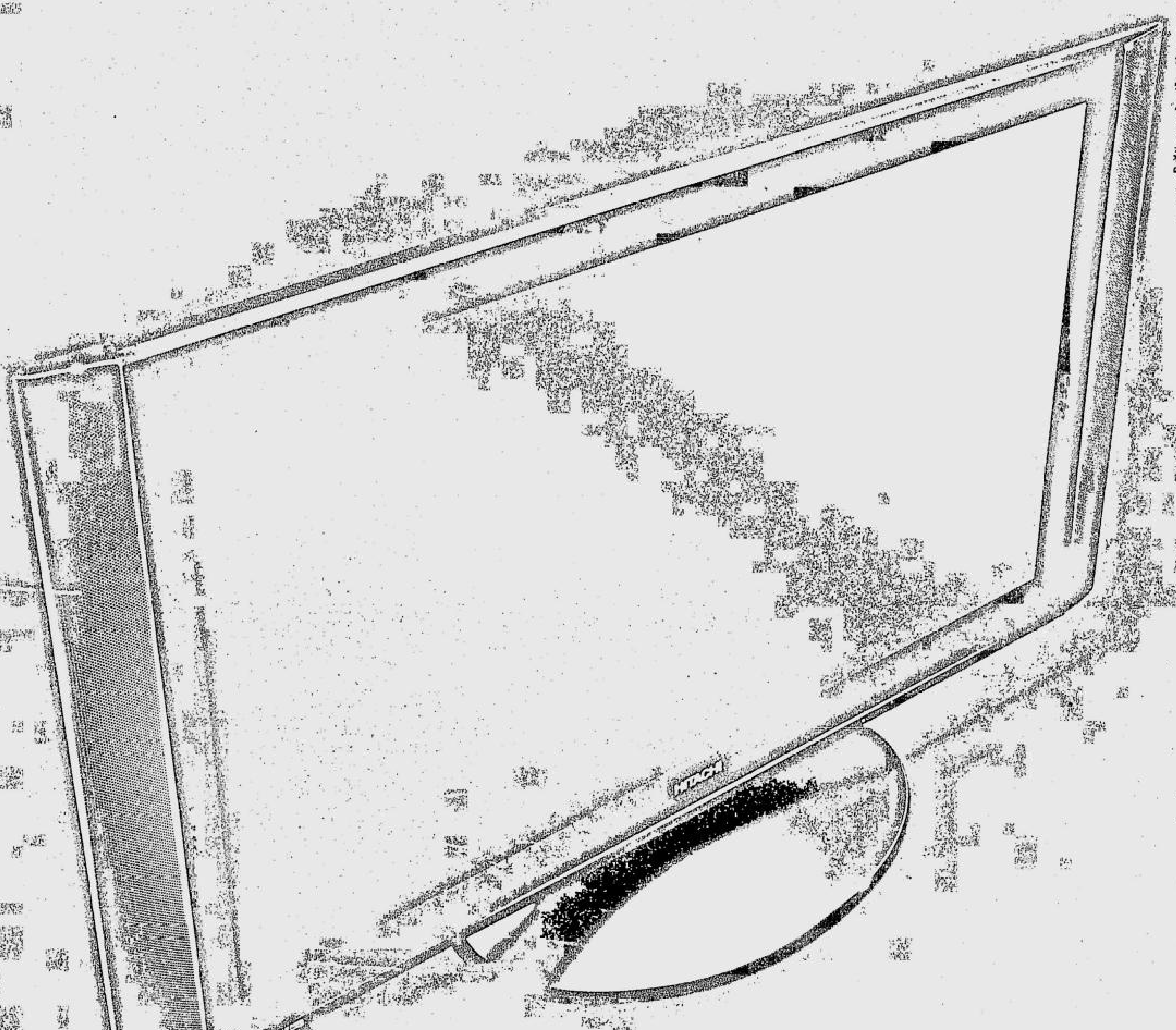

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